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# The Playground

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DECEMBER, 1925

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Looking Backward to the Asheville Recreation Congress  
Impressions by Joseph Lee, Josephine Blackstock and Ernst Hermann

A Fairy Tale for the Play Movement  
By Joseph Lee

The Government's Part in Upbuilding Community Recreation  
By F. R. McNinch

Finding God in Beauty  
By Zona Gale

Special Activities for the Playground  
By Charles English

A New Department of Nature Activities  
Conducted by Professor W. E. Vinal

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VOLUME XIX. NO. 9

PRICE 25 CENTS

# The Playground

Maintained by and in the interests of the Playground and Recreation Association of America

Published monthly

at

315 Fourth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

Subscription \$2.00 per year

## MEMBERSHIP

Any person contributing five dollars or more shall be a member of the Association for the ensuing year

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Entered as second-class matter March 27, 1924, at the Post Office at New York, New York, under act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized May 1, 1924.

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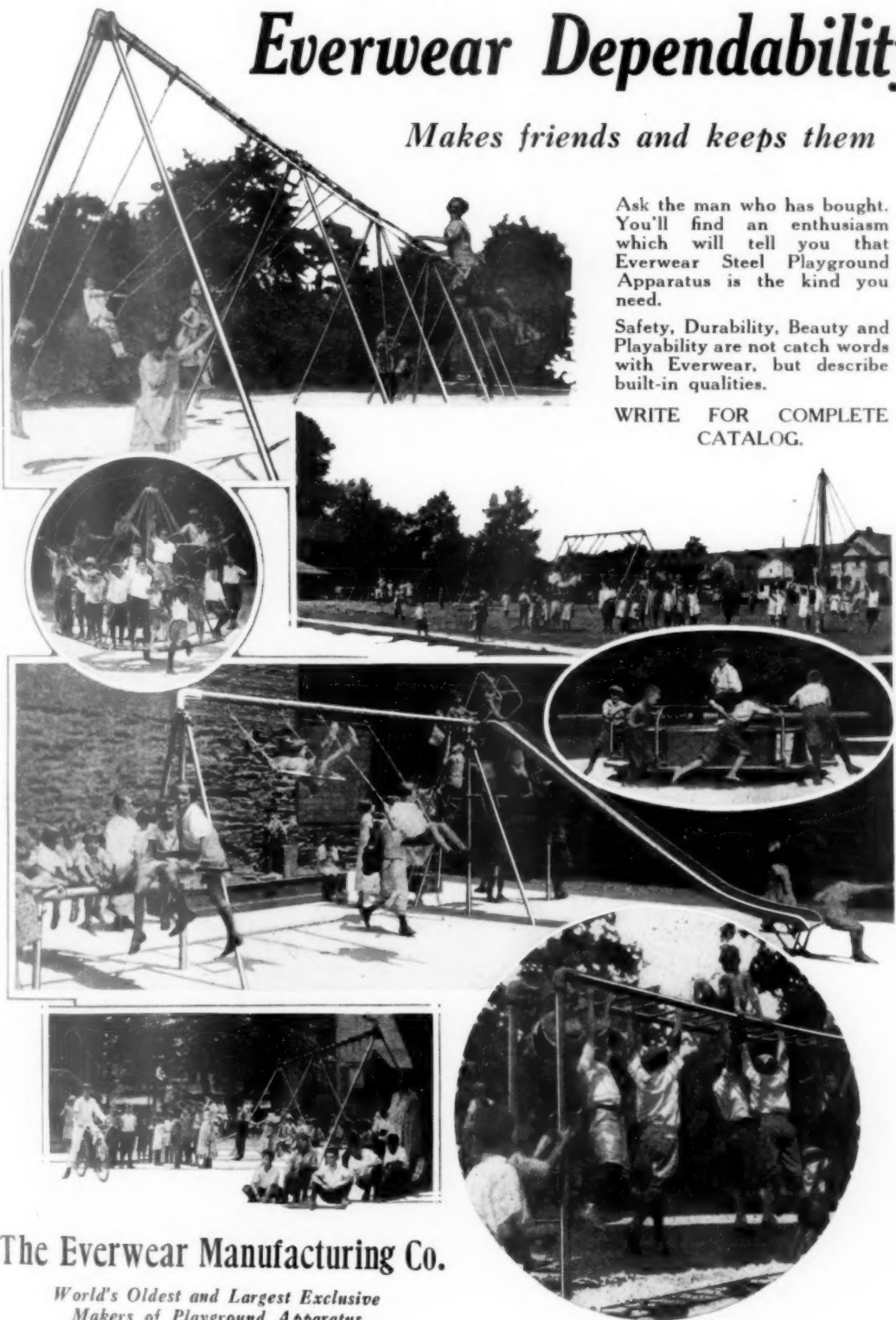
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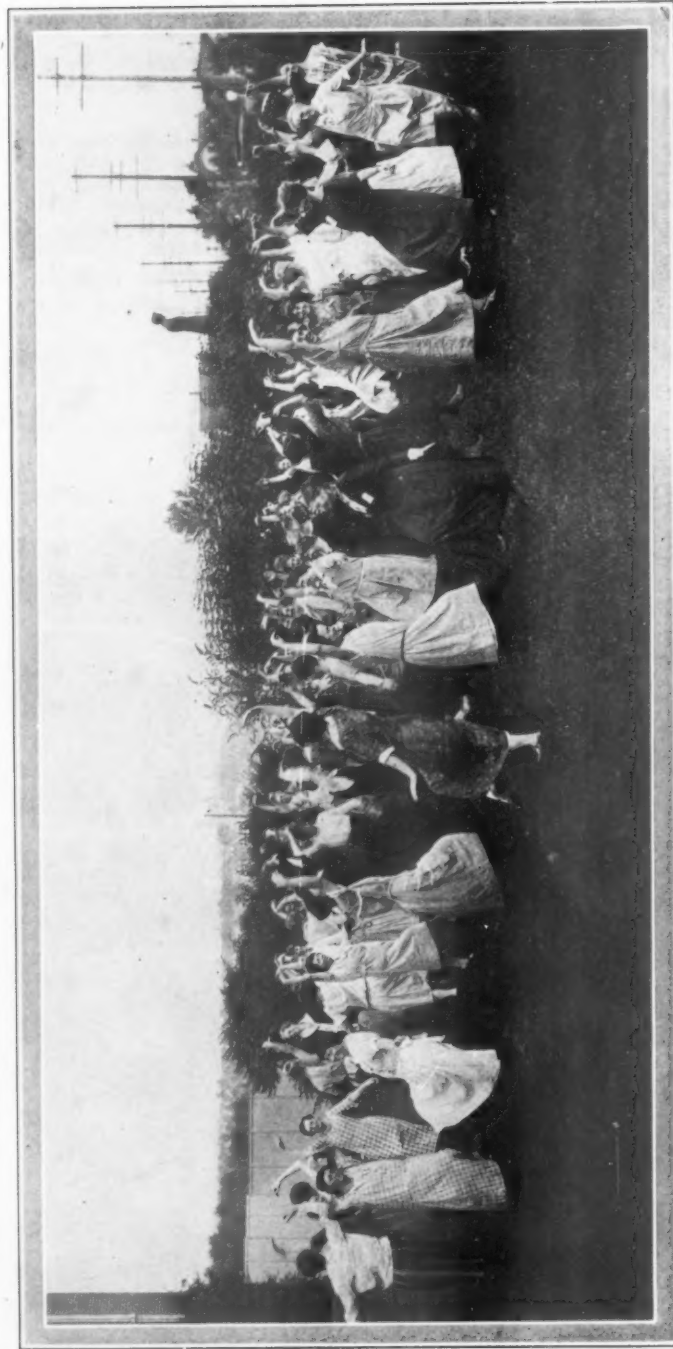


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# The Playground

VOL. XIX, No. 9

DECEMBER, 1925

## The World at Play

**To Promote Sportsmanship.**—A new organization has been formed to foster and spread the spirit of sportsmanship throughout the world. This organization, called the Sportsmanship Brotherhood, has its office in Room 2120, 120 Broadway, New York City. Its president is Mr. Matthew Woll, vice-president of the American Federation of Labor. The secretary is Captain Percy R. Creed. Its slogan is, "Play Fair." The code of honor of a sportsman is that he keep the rules; keep faith with his comrade; play the game for his side; keep himself fit; keep his temper; keep from hitting a man when he is down; keep his pride under in victory; keep a stout heart in defeat accepted with good grace; keep a sound soul and a clean mind in a healthy body.

**A Friendly Word from the Balkans.**—Mrs. Willoughby Rodman, of Los Angeles, California, recently received the following letter:

"The magazine, THE PLAYGROUND, is fascinating reading. It gives so many valuable suggestions for community activities. I am keeping the numbers on file, for I am looking forward to the time when we can enter the community center which is being built for us. . . .

"I remember one of your sentences in the address you gave in the Samoker Church, 'O Lord, give me the understanding heart—is the prayer I say as I travel from place to place.'

"In reading THE PLAYGROUND I see what varied, beautiful work is being accomplished by various community centers. It makes me fairly ache with desire to accomplish something along that line and make people happy and give children a chance to grow up into healthy men and women. With best wishes and greetings.

(Signed) A. M. BAIRD"

36 Belcheff Street, Sofia

**Hope of Municipal Playground Support in South Africa.**—An American woman mar-

ried to a South African and living at Bloemfontein, South Africa, writes for literature and advice on the organization of playgrounds. She says that a playground has recently been opened in the poorest and most thickly populated part of the town and that the municipality has stated that if this is a success it will aid in starting at least two others and will pay a director.

**A Training Course in Bucharest, Rumania.**—Bucharest, Rumania, has a national institute for physical education controlled by the Department of Education.

The institute includes three sections—the civic section, preparing teachers for physical education; the military section, training instructors for the army and navy; and a third section designed to train coaches in certain sports.

Through the institute training is given in athletics, games, dancing, swimming, camping and similar activities as well as in subjects of an academic character.

**A New Magazine.**—Evans Bros., Arlington House, Boston, announce the publication of the "first music magazine for young people in America." *Music and Youth* is the name of this publication, which is designed to meet the needs of members of junior music clubs and other young people, and help them to interpret music in its various phases. The first issue appeared in October, containing an interesting article telling how the various instruments came to have their particular names. There is the story of the strings; a description of the work of the Chicago Civic Music Association, with special reference to the children's activities; discussions on how to tune up, of good and bad styles in orchestras and of sight reading. A number of musical compositions are given and there are reproductions of a number of works of great artists, such as *Youth* by Carpaccio and the *Singing Boys* of Luca della Robbia.

The magazine, with its interesting methods of teaching the technique of music, with its appeal to the imagination and the possibilities it has for creating a real and abiding love for music should have a wide field of service.

The price is \$2 per year; 25c per copy.

**A Playground in Havana.**—Alvin Piza, President, Havana Trust Company, Havana, reports that as a result of the activities of the Havana Chapter of the Rotary Club, the city will soon have a thoroughly modern playground. One of the park squares centrally located has been turned over by the city for the purpose and the Rotary Club will lay it out and maintain it along modern lines.

**Course in Immigrant Backgrounds.**—In co-operation with the State Department of Education, Hunter College, New York City, is offering as one of its courses in adult immigrant education a course in immigrant backgrounds.

The course will cover such subjects as the following: The immigrant in his native environment, causes of immigration, types and colonies, immigrant life in America, reactions to American attitudes and institutions, history of immigration and the present immigrant law.

This course is intended to be of practical assistance to those working with, or whose work brings them in contact with, the foreign born. It is an attempt to understand the problems of the immigrant and sympathetically aid in his readjustment.

**Carol Singing in Chicago.**—Chicago will sing Christmas Carols this year on a scale that will make it impossible for anyone to be omitted. Under the auspices of a Christmas Carol Committee, hotel lobbies, schools, churches, theaters, homes, hospitals, jails and all public institutions will be visited by groups of carol singers, among whom will be found opera singers, church singers and concert soloists. The carols will also be broadcast by radio.

**California Parent-Teacher Associations Report on Recreation.**—"The right kind of play," says the printed report recently issued by the Parent-Teacher Associations of California, "is fundamental to all the other departments of child welfare work. Basing their work on this principle, Parent-Teacher Associations throughout the State have conducted many activities along recrea-

tion lines. Some of the activities have included an annual library day, when children and teachers dress to represent books; nature study classes; gymnasium classes for women; baseball game between fathers and sons, an annual flower show to which children bring flowers, plants and ferns for later use in the school yards; a fathers' night program; use of schools as community centers; annual field days; children's matinees at moving picture theaters; story hours at the libraries; handcraft exhibits and special radio programs.

**Stamford's Splash Week.**—Splash Week at Hallowe'en Park, Stamford, represented the joint activity of every organization in Stamford, Connecticut, as well as the work of many private individuals who took part in the planning. The results far exceeded the hopes of the committee. Over 500 children were taught on the first day the elements of taking care of themselves in the water. About 150 received special Red Cross training on the second day and on the last day of all, the contests drew a crowd of 1,500 spectators and participants. Not one accident marred the program.

**Their Day.**—Children played an important part in the opening of the Kern County Fair at Bakersfield, California. Sixteen thousand school children paraded through the streets, led by a number of school bands. On Children's Day, school children were admitted to the fair free of charge, and each afternoon during the period, different groups of children presented demonstrations of school activities.

**Planning Ahead.**—In the new development known as Palos Verdes, near Los Angeles Harbor, California, being laid out by Olmsted Brothers and Charles H. Cheney, exceptional provision has been made for parks and recreation.

Every mile across the property about ten acres has been set aside for an elementary school playground-park unit; every two miles twenty-five acres for a junior high school and children's ball fields; every three miles forty acres for a senior high school and community playground. A 213-acre park and golf course, with grass greens, fairways and clubhouse, complete, has been deeded to the community for permanent recreation use; together with four miles of ocean shore park and about two hundred acres of additional parks and gulches, linking up with paths, roads and bridle-trails all parts of the property.—From the *Survey*, October 15, 1925

**Goldsboro's Memorial Building.**—The Wayne County Memorial Building at Goldsboro, North Carolina, is of red brick and in general design is modeled on the old Colonial architecture of the South.

Across the front of the building is a large two-story portico with six columns. The main entrance is in the center of the building and over the frieze are carved the significant words, "Victory—Brotherhood—Service."

Passing through the doorway, the visitor enters the spacious lobby, from one side of which opens the American Legion room with a seating capacity of 170. From the other side opens the office of the Community Director and connected with this room are the rooms of Community Service, the Red Cross, the Charity Organization Association and the Boy and Girl Scouts.

The memorial rotunda, with roof and ceiling of amber colored glass, is directly opposite the lobby steps. It is lighted from above by a large lantern and the effect is of a golden glow shining down on the two bronze tablets bearing the names of the soldiers killed in the Great War.

Passing through the memorial rotunda, one enters the large, spacious lounge, with its big inviting fireplace. Beyond the lounge is the gymnasium with a seating capacity of 670 and equipped at one end with a stage so that it may be used as an auditorium.

On either side of the lounge, there are locker, shower and toilet rooms for men and women and directly above them, on the second floor, are similar facilities for boys and girls. The locker rooms have direct connection with the gymnasium.

The basement contains a boiler room and a fully equipped kitchen with a dumb waiter to the first floor, so that the gymnasium may be used as a banquet hall.

The cost of the building, including equipment, was approximately \$45,000.00.

#### **To Make a Playground of Sand Dunes.**—

Judge E. H. Gary, Director of the United States Steel Corporation, has pledged \$250,000, and Julius Rosenwald \$50,000 for making the Indiana sand dunes a public playground, provided \$500,000 additional is raised by public subscription.

**Gift for Walnut Grove, Kentucky.**—U. S. Williams, a resident of Walnut Grove, Kentucky, has donated a strip of land on his farm for the use of the children of the community. A volley

ball court, croquet lawn and tennis court have already been constructed on the land and other facilities will be added from time to time. This gift represents the desire of Mr. Williams to cooperate with the work being done by the County Farm, under whose auspices the country life conference was recently held at Walnut Grove.

**For Boys and Girls in Milwaukee.**—Boys' and Girls' Week was celebrated in Milwaukee, Wis., October 11-17, under the auspices of Boys' and Girls' Workers' Conferences of the Central Council of Social Agencies. A Day in Church, a Day at Home, a Day in Citizenship, a Day in School, a Day in Industry, a Day in Boys' and Girls' Organizations, a Day Out of Doors made up the week which proved to be a most successful one. Each day was under the auspices of some special local group.

**A Tennis Course.**—During the past summer a course in tennis playing, sponsored by Playground Community Service was given in Pasadena, Cal., at the Pasadena High School tennis courts. The course consisted of a number of lectures on the game, at the last of which outlines of the course were passed out to the audience. These outlines contained a summarized review of the preceding lectures and some pertinent questions relating to each particular phase of tennis. At the end a statement of thirty-four common errors was made, all of which had been discussed in the course of the lessons and were thus again called to the attention of the students. It was a very worthwhile course for tennis enthusiasts.

**What a Small Town Can Do.**—In 1904 Wamego, Kansas (with a population of only 1,585), purchased twelve acres of land for park purposes at a cost of \$2,525. Recently the park board purchased three adjoining acres at a cost of \$2,000 for use as a tourist camp ground. An artificial lake, a wading pool, a women's rest house, bandstand, dancing pavilion, playground equipment, three drinking fountains, dining tables, steel range, ballfields and other facilities have been constructed. Town funds maintain this playground at an average yearly expense of \$1,500. The only charge made for the park is for entertainments. The revenue comes from licenses for shows and from the church, school and general welfare fund.

**Folk Dance Society Formed.**—In an attempt to arouse interest in the early American folk



dance among the old and young of the many foreign nations represented in the city, a folk dance society has recently been organized in San Diego, Cal. The classes, which are taught by members of this society, under the direction of Community Service, are of both educational and social interest.

**Character Education of Children.**—From the Character Education Institute of Chevy Chase, Washington, D. C., may be secured the "Children's Morality Codes" for elementary schools and high schools and a character report card and school record, issued in an effort to further character education of children.

**Physical Education Day in Japan.**—November third was Physical Education Day in Japan. Under the auspices of the Ministry of Education, more than 100,000 children assembled in the city's parks and marched through the streets to the broad plaza, enclosed by walls and moats, which forms the outer ground of the Imperial Palace. Here drills and exercises of several kinds took place.

**State Parks and Forests.**—The National Conference on Outdoor Recreation, Navy Building, Washington, D. C., has distributed a pamphlet on State Parks and Forests, issued by the National Conference on State Parks, Washington, D. C.

This exceedingly informative booklet tells what is being done in each State to acquire land for State parks.

**A Girls' Recreation Club.**—The Paterson, New Jersey, Board of Recreation is fostering a Girls' Recreation Club for young women over eighteen, many of whom are working during the day. The girls manage their own evening meetings, attending gymnasium classes from 7:15 to 10:00 p. m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays at School No. 4, while those interested in athletics meet on the same nights at the armory from 7:15 to 8:00 o'clock. Among the activities participated in by almost 200 girls during the past year were calisthenic drills, marching tactics, running, jumping, throwing, basketball, volley ball, service ball, indoor baseball, rifle practice, swimming, gymnastic games, bowling, hiking, social and esthetic dancing.

Any girl living in Paterson or adjoining boroughs may apply for membership and be voted on by the officers elected by the girls annually.

Club dues, which are 25 cents monthly, are used for promoting club activities.

**A Boat Race for New Bedford's Children.**—From time immemorial babies have floated matches in the bathtub, and little children have sailed toy boats in a pond. Now boat races are becoming an organized sport for boys and girls in many cities, and the enthusiasm over them is akin to the Yale, Harvard and Cornell variety.

New Bedford, the city of "iron men and wooden ships" this summer staged a series of boat races at Brooklawn Park. All classes of boats were entered—home-made and manufactured sloops, schooners and square riggers. It was found that in many cases the home-made boats, although possibly not first in beauty, turned out to be first in speed. Sometimes the boys made two or three boats, profiting by their former experience each time. One girl, fourteen years of age, entered the contest—her father, once a boat-builder, having built her a miniature schooner, thirty inches long, called the *Undine*. The merchants of New Bedford, realizing the value of the publicity to be gained from the event, offered prizes for the best ships.

**Kenosha Wins.**—First in recreation, library, government, welfare work, city planning, industry and health—that's Kenosha, Wisconsin, according to the Wisconsin Better Cities Contest, and six of the seven judges had to be unanimous on each point. The city was chosen as "the best city in the State in which to live" from fourteen cities entered in a State-wide Better Cities Contest conducted over a year under the auspices of the Wisconsin Conference of Social Work, and for a month the judges have been trying to decide which was the best. In seven out of ten tests Kenosha came out first and as a result the Kenosha Civic Council was given a prize of \$1,000, and the city given the honor of being broadcast throughout the country as the outstanding city in the State. Oshkosh came second and Chippewa Falls won the prize of \$500 in the contest staged for cities with a population under 10,000.

**Lexington Has a Get-Together.**—Saturday, November 7th, was Community Day in Lexington, Massachusetts, when all the men in the town were asked to give time, labor or money for the purpose of widening the town's quarter-mile cinder track. Many volunteered their services and worked to music supplied by the First Corps Cadet



Band, the High School Girls' Glee Club and the community chorus. The Home and School Association provided refreshments.

#### **The Junior Drum Corps of Red Oak, Iowa.**

—Think of being ten years old—and parading with thirty-three of your pals in a bright red sweater and blue trousers in front of the President of the United States and the First Lady of the Land? And then think of having them rise and applaud as you marched by? Can you imagine having a bigger thrill than that? And it isn't a fairy tale—it's a true story and the Junior Drum Corps of Red Oak, Iowa, aged eight to ten, were the "leading men." For at the National American Legion Convention recently held in Omaha, the thirty-four boys composing the Junior Drum Corps of Red Oak were allowed to march in the big Legion parade and they were well-nigh the hit of the occasion.

To quote from the Red Oak Express, "Little Cecil Gleason, drum major, heading the coterie of drummers and buglers, with eyes fixed upon the Chief Executive, executed a snappy salute. He was fairly cakewalking, his cadence was so snappy and his knees were bounding so far up under his chin. Cecil was doing his stuff. His fellows were likewise doing theirs. Their eyes were fixed straight ahead (for it would not be etiquette to 'rubber' at the President in such a line of march) and they strutted like thirty-four peacocks out on a frosty morning's walk."

A special Pullman coach was provided for the boys' return home through the courtesy of the Burlington trainmaster, whose admiration was completely won. The boys have already established a reputation for themselves in southwestern Iowa and have been called out a number of times to give exhibitions.

**What the Circus Did for Them.**—Following a circus given in Houston, Texas, by the Houston Recreation and Community Service, a school teacher of the city telephoned the Department. She said that for several years in her school, principal and teachers had wondered just what would ever become of one boy who never seemed to fit in anywhere. She saw him as one of the best performers in the circus. So expert in fact was his particular act that she felt he had a future there if nowhere else, but most valuable of all was the fact that he had found his place in the playground group.

She also commented upon the large number of

participants of the "flapper" and "jelly bean" age as conclusive evidence that somebody in Houston had been providing something besides joy riding and petting parties for the young people.

"No onlooker knew," says Miss Corinne Fondé, Executive Secretary, in her report, "that one of the little animals that cavorted about on all fours with the greatest possible glee has great difficulty even with crutches in getting about upright."

**Recreation for Play Leaders.**—"To promote good fellowship among the employees of the Board of Recreation of Paterson, New Jersey; to improve the service of the members individually and collectively; to provide facilities for a better knowledge of duties of its members and to promote public recreation in every manner and that of its members in particular" are the objects of the Recreation Directors' Club of Paterson.

Membership in the club is open only to directors of playgrounds or assistants who have been upon the payroll of the Board of Recreation for at least thirty days. They must, however, be voted upon at regular meetings. No regular dues are charged, but there may be assessments when necessary upon a two-thirds vote of the organization members present at the meeting. Officers are elected annually and these officers consist of president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer.

The following committees are in charge of the activities at the monthly meetings and at all other meetings that may be called by the president: 1. Membership, 2. Dance, 3. Social, 4. Good and Welfare.

**Something New in Handcraft.**—Scissor Painting or Appliqué Work is the name of the latest form of handcraft evolved by the Dennison Company. The process involves the use of crepe paper and dissolved sealing wax for lamp shades, pottery and similar articles.

The two methods used in decorating pottery, which consist in stippling or painting the articles produce very beautiful effects. Excellent results may be secured by pasting designs from crepe paper on a pottery vase, covering it with one coat of transparent amber sealing wax and stippling the article with colored sealing wax on contrasting shades.

Definite information may be secured from Dennison headquarters in Boston, Chicago, Philadelphia or New York.

# THE SUNSHINE FAIRY

By JOSEPH LEE



POOR WOMAN lived in a log hut up on a mountain. She had to work hard from morning till night, cooking and sewing, keeping house for her husband and her four grown-up sons, and looking after her little daughter, Jeanie. She never sang or laughed or read a story, never listened to the birds or watched the beautiful changes of the woods. Her life seemed one steady, never-ending grind.

One day her little daughter said to her: "Mother, may I run out and sit by the spring a little while?" The mother answered: "Why do you want to sit by the spring?" But her little daughter could not tell her any reason, so she answered: "No. You wash those dishes and then sew that sheet I gave you. And don't go sitting by the spring. Life is for work and not for idleness."

So Jeanie washed the dishes and then took up the sheet and began her sewing. But the poor mother was so tired she had to lie down a little while and rest; and as she lay there, she heard her daughter saying: "Dear Fairy Sunbeam, I am so sorry. I wanted so to come as I promised, but my mother would not let me, and I could not tell her about you as she would have punished me for telling lies. And now you will never come again, and I am so lonely and so tired. I have nobody to play with any more."

And then the mother saw herself as a little girl, and she was sitting in the sunlight by the spring. And standing before her was a beautiful fairy with the sunlight shining through her golden hair and the fairy was telling her a wonderful story about knights and dragons and a beautiful princess in a shining palace in a wood. And then she heard her own mother's voice calling her: "Jeanie, come in. What keeps you dawdling by the spring? This world is for work and not for idleness." And she got up and left the spring, and the house door closed on her and she never saw the fairy any more.

And the mother woke up and found she had been crying in her sleep, and she called her daughter and said: "Jeanie, you may go out to the spring."

# Impressions of the Congress

By

JOSEPH LEE

My impressions are necessarily confined to the general meetings because it was only those that I was able to attend—to my great regret because it is the section meetings which I as a theorist hungry for hard pan especially enjoy. And even of the general meetings I missed, to my especial regret, the one at which Mr. Mallery told of his experiences in Europe.

I have spoken of the fighting instinct, although well aware that our up-to-date psychology has abolished instincts—*nous avons changé tout cela*. By it I mean that urge toward physical conflict and its chivalric ideal that until very recent times has been a dominating force in human life and that would be the fighting instinct if instincts had not been thus disqualified. As a distinguished lawyer once answered the judge who had contradicted him upon a point of law—"It *was* the law until your Honor spoke."

## I.

### CHIVALRY EXPRESSED IN PLAY—THE OLD SOUTH AND THE NEW

There were two things that especially impressed me at the conference:

First, there were the three papers dealing with the fighting spirit. There was George E. Johnson's restatement in the terms of up-to-date psychology of the nature of the fighting instinct, with his convincing reminder of its value and of the reasons for its application in play and sport—to the end that the fighting virtues shall be conserved in a pugnacious peace. There was the eloquent statement by Rev. Ashby Jones, of Atlanta, of the spiritual necessity of fighting, of the value of danger and the spirit of take-a-dare, and of the need of perpetuating these virtues in true sportsmanship. And there was Whitehead Kluttz's picture of the gracious and chivalric society of the old South and of its current translation into play and sport.

It was a good thing for those of us who have of late years attended so assiduously upon the muses to be thus led back to the altar of the sterner gods. It was a specially happy circumstance that the restatement of the value of the chivalric virtues should have been made in a southern city and that the high water mark of the whole conference should have been a speech

upon that theme by a representative of both the old South and the new—a son of the chaplain of Robert E. Lee in war and peace, holding thus an hereditary title to speak with authority upon good sportsmanship. As I listened to the speaker's eloquence I seemed to see St. Michael in his shining armor standing above our play fields and smiling at a better incarnation of his spirit than can be found amid the poison gases of the field of war.

## II.

### THE NECESSITY OF A PERSONAL RELATION

The other point that most impressed me was in the papers emphasizing the necessity of a personal relation in all good work with boys—in the speeches of Commander Coote, of Cameron Beck of the New York Stock Exchange, and of Brother Barnabas at the Friday luncheon.

Games and play, as we all know, may be demoralizing. I suppose most ball teams cheat to a greater or less extent. The demoralization, indeed, is probably not so great as one might suppose on a first consideration of the crude fact. Every ball team like every army has, in spite of all, its point of honor, although to the outsider the line between honor and dishonor may be somewhat incomprehensible. Few teams, I imagine, would play the kind of trick to which Rome owed her start when she accepted the surrender of the Samnites with the promise of letting them go free and then made slaves of them, or would emulate the still more dastardly proceeding of the Crusaders when, contrary to their promise, they sacked Jerusalem.

Still, there are forms of cheating nearer to the border line of honest sport, and these I fear are almost universal and though, in spite of these transgressions, the earnest fighter of the ball field who has played the game upon the whole according to his lights, may have received a better ethical training, and may in after life be found more reliable in social or business relations, than the softy who has indulged a high ideal that has never been subjected to the acid test—though honor in our boys may survive, and even gain in fibre, from the sort of games we too often find them playing—it will not be always of the purest sort. The ethical compromises of the ball field



will have their fruit in the sort of politics by which too many of our cities, towns and States are governed and in the shadier kind of business relations.

Leadership is what is indicated. As Brother Barnabas put it, every boy in his early teens has in his heart a hunger for heroic leadership. The place of his ideal was in old times taken by his father, whom he followed upon the hunt or in his more or less heroic occupations upon the farm. Now father and son are separated by industrial conditions, leaving in the boy's heart a vacant niche. When he looks around him for the image to put in it he too often finds his idol in the tough. The filling of this ill occupied or vacant place, the setting up within the shrine of a finer and more inspiring model, is with most boys a first necessity of spiritual success.

The moral for us playground people is not, I think, that we as an organization either national or local should go into the business of organizing this kind of leadership. There are other organizations upon the job—Boy Scouts, Big Brothers, and many more. But we should all of us be more than ever conscious of this void in the boy's mind and of the enormous interest at stake, and should make it a part of our program everywhere that the organizations fitted to supply this need shall be operative in connection with our boy's work. And where this sort of provision has not been organized, we should get in touch with the appropriate national headquarters or secure it in some other way.

**Hoboken Playground Exhibit.**—To stimulate interest in the Hoboken playgrounds, Commissioner of Parks and Playgrounds Harry L. Schmulling and Playground Superintendent J. Durstewitz prepared an exhibit at Hoboken's Industrial Exposition October 3 to 10. The exhibit contained the models of parks and playgrounds, charts, activity pictures, athletic equipment and craft work.

Hoboken has at present ten playgrounds in its mile square area so laid out as to be within two blocks of every home. The playgrounds are fully equipped with standard apparatus, are open all the year round and in charge of custodians. Plans are now being made for 1926 to promote more widely the playing of games by the youth of the city.

With this in mind, a new playground was leased on Grand Street between Second and Third Streets. To this playground the equipment from the playground at Eleventh and Clinton Streets was transferred, the latter to be used exclusively for games. In addition the large area adjoining Hudson Square Park will be in shape by 1926 as a playing field. Facilities for playing horseshoe, basketball, volley ball, playground baseball and football will be provided, with proper leadership. A running track around the field is also a part of the plan. A series of contests will be carried out that should do much to lure the youth from the streets into the playgrounds.



THE TARANTELLA

Four-year-old Italian Children—Tuckahoe Playground, West Chester County Third Annual Play Day, 1925



# Some Impressions of the Asheville Congress

By

JOSEPHINE BLACKSTOCK

*Director, Playground Board of Oak Park, Illinois*

I suppose that ideas have horizons of their own, and both terrestrial and celestial boundaries, though when it comes to making a chart of one's findings the process is not so simple a matter. However, my outstanding impression of the Asheville Recreation Congress was a feeling of maturity of growth, of the ripening of our whole attitude towards the play movement. Not only was there this sensation of a new conception of recreation, but a definite feeling of growth and change in the calibre of the recreation worker. I felt that we are getting away from a purely physical concept of the term recreation, that we are enlarging its educational boundaries so that the esthetic side of the program has been set on an equal footing with the athletic one.

And it seems as though this attitude were only a logical one. The spirit of play cannot be interpreted merely in the language of games, nor alone in the syllables of handcraft, music and dramatics. It is, after all, more than all these. It is happiness' "daily dozen"; it is the setting-up exercise for a self-expression that does truly express the whole nature of the child and the adult. It is the language of the heart as well as of the muscles and the brain.

"The first question that I'd ask a prospective play leader," said Professor W. G. Vinal, "would be this: 'Does a dog follow you?'" That was an apt and happy way of saying that a play director should first of all be human—after that a pedagogue. Too often during the past we have tried to reform the play spirit and have only succeeded in deforming it. And after all it is simply something to conform to. This spirit of play is the natural heritage of all children, but the free gift to only a few of those favored grown-ups who are forever Peter Pans.

Perhaps the perspective, looking backwards, gives us as fair a one as any. New slants and angles have had time to shake down to their proper niches. Now, after a week's time, certain

high lights in the Congress program still stand out, sharply limned.

There was Joseph Lee's challenge to the "happy amateur."

There was Commander B. T. Coote's significant contention: "Haven't we made a victory the test of physical fitness, when in reality it is not victory, but the proportion of girls and boys who play regularly that counts ultimately."

And Whitehead Kluttz's crystallization of the new attitude towards the esthetic value of beautiful playgrounds to the child: "An ugly playground is an unthinkable paradox; an anomaly."

There was the prophecy of Joy E. Morgan: "We are just beginning to realize the importance of play in our educational system. Some day, not so very far off, we shall coordinate the programs of our churches, our schools, and our playgrounds, and then we shall know what real education means."

There was the remark of a playground director from Illinois: "We haven't thought enough about the highly developed esthetic sense in the child. We owe him attractive-looking, happy-hearted, happy-mannered play leaders."

The prediction of Professor Vinal: "Some day our whole country will be one great playground."

The profound potentialities that lay behind the report of a superintendent of recreation in a Georgia city: "The Juvenile Court parols its charges to the superintendent of playgrounds. No one ever knows just who these boys are except the play directors."

The thoughtful conclusion of a practical playground worker ran: "We don't sufficiently turn to account the spirit of zeal for perfection that is inherent in every child."

Miss Nina B. Lamkin's finding: "We have discovered that girls get the most good from those games they *want* to play."

And, lastly, President Coolidge's ringing challenge quoted by a delegate: "Our children need

to be taught how to play just as much as they do how to work. Play is the greatest democratizer; the greatest up-builder of good citizenship."

There was food for thought in the several issues that lined up the delegates on sides that were sharply opposed. There was C. E. Brewer's contention: "We cannot make our awards on the sportsmanship principle. Take away the win or lose idea and you have destroyed the fighting spirit in the boy, you have killed his aggressiveness. Children must fight; this 'slap me on the wrist' stuff doesn't mean a thing." In line with Mr. Brewer's argument there was Professor George E. Johnson's premise: "Contests take the ill-will out of the fighting instinct. To fight fairly in games is to conserve the heroic qualities of man, to keep alive in our youth the fighting ideal." Some one quoted the Finnish athlete, Paavo Nurmi, "When I run I don't contend with my opponent, I run against myself"; and there was the statement from an Eastern recreation worker: "Sportsmanship should be voluntary, not legislated. Get the right director and you have right play." Then on the other side of the ledger there were the convincing reports of V. K. Brown and a number of other superintendents about the success of the sportsmanship rating system on their playgrounds. And still on this side of the argument the contentions of Otto T. Mallery, and Commander Coote, both students of the recreational life in England, a country given over to the ideal of good sportsmanship, and averse to competition as a dominant issue.

A second interesting question, warmly debated, was that of rating play directors. Here sentiment for and against seemed fairly evenly divided. Most of the comments against the proposal were made informally after the section meeting by playground workers who contended that the grading was inadequate and at times unfair. On the other hand, the idea had staunch enough proponents.

Charles English's discussion on the comparative ratio of athletics, handcraft and esthetic activities in the program met with a varied response. The consensus of opinion appeared to be that in the case of boys a fifty-fifty basis was a workable one, while on the girls' program athletics was relegated to a forty-sixty ratio. Interesting corollaries were brought out in this discussion; one was the project of encouraging a more diversified handcraft program through a weekly social meeting at the home of the superintendent when

the play leaders might work out handcraft projects; the other the statement, widely supported, and as widely opposed, that our social system has resulted in girls showing a lower grade of sportsmanship than boys.

Finally, there was the question that elicited the most heated discussion of the entire Congress—that on the character building values in social activities. Most of the delegates seemed agreed on the opinion that a scientific study of the social value of games, such as has been inaugurated, would be of definite value, but there was sharply divided opinion as to the value of the contribution the playground superintendent could make.

A new and colorful note in the Congress this year was that lent by the international angle of the recreation movement. Four people contributed notably to it: Commander Coote with his talks on recreation both for boys and for miners in Great Britain; Otto T. Mallery in his report on recreational facilities in various European countries; Dr. John Brown in his analysis of foreign lands, and Miss Vera Barger in her talk on recreation in China. The international note appeared to me one of the outstanding accomplishments of the Congress; it opened up new vistas, lent new drama and significance to the entire convention. What more inspiring challenge could one accept than that thrown out by this quartet of thoughtful recreation students: "European countries and China and Japan are looking towards the United States for a greater understanding, for an opportunity to develop physically their youth"? I hope that at next year's Congress we may develop still more this new note. What an incalculable contribution it would be to have a half dozen students of the recreation field come from as many foreign countries, bearing their gifts to us, carrying away as great and happy largesse! And while we are on the subject of suggestions for future Congresses, would it not lend new vigor and interest, a fine fillip of novelty, to invite one or two of our outstanding amateur champions, such as Mallory or Tilden, to give us either a theoretical or practical demonstration?

To me the Congress was marked with a sense of harmony, a sturdy joining of hands towards a common end, a loyalty towards old ideals and a reaching out towards new ones. I had the feeling that as recreation directors we are wearing this play spirit more comfortably, like a garment whose beauty and use we have tried out and grown accustomed to.

# A Convention Retrospect

By

ERNST HERMANN

*Superintendent of Recreation, Newton, Mass.*

I used to resent the predominating amateur note at the Playground and Recreation conventions and in the pride of my professional attitude I rather thought it a waste of time to attend them. I believe I have preached, taught and practised play and recreation, theory and practise, philosophy, psychology and hygiene, the art of living, the secret of happiness, the road to success, the amateur versus the professional, the history of the decline of nations and other pertinent and impertinent subjects longer, more vigorously, more relentlessly and frequently with less tact than almost any man or woman I have ever met at these convention. This probably explains my former attitude towards these "beginners."

I would not give up my hard earned professional knowledge and the experience which I have gained in a wide field of professional and amateur callings, but I thank God for the amateur, for his enthusiasm, his sportsmanship, his unbiased attitude, his love for his fellows, and the wonderfully varied fields in which he roams!

In our eagerness to reach the top of our particular professional or social or sport ladder it is quite easy to lose the very life-blood of success, enthusiasm, spontaneous effort and the holy wrath which overcomes narrowness and selfishness.

We professionals easily lose this glorious force, this overwhelming enthusiastic attitude of mind of the amateur, in our bread and butter reflections and considerations.

If we cannot retain the amateur spirit we had better take up some exact science, some highly organized profession, some systematized business and stop advising others how to make the most of their physical, mental and social inheritance.

Every worth-while educational movement has been started by amateurs and has died from professional medicine. How in the name of common sense and divine revelation can play survive if we manicure it into an exact science!

Every convention I have attended has revived my spirit, has shortened my conceit, has strengthened my hope and has stimulated my emotions.

Again I am filled with the joy of life and with new ambition for my job. I arrived earlier than ever and stayed to the last. I sought out the amateurs and shunned the professionals. I enjoyed every speaker. I know that I am now an amateur professional and not any longer a professional amateur.

## Obstacle Golf

Obstacle Golf, while closely allied to the old game of golf, is a game all its own developed by Mrs. L. M. Callison while teaching her pupils in Washington the importance of continual practice.

In order to make the mastery of the Mashie or Niblick a game, Mrs. Callison would find low logs of wood, stones, pools of water, grass, twigs and other obstacles for the pupils to drive over. When the girls found that they could get over a ton of coal dumped in the road near the space where they were playing, they were eager for further obstacles. Finally they began to drive over a good sized tree and the competition which arose from trying to surpass one another gave rise to the idea of calling the game "obstacle golf."

The idea spread to the playground where the boys and girls would get small rubber balls and with hockey sticks, old canes or tree branches would work all over the obstacles in their path. At some of the playgrounds "Clock Golf" was developed. As many holes the size of a tomato can were dug as space would permit—usually from 9 to 12. Old tomato cans were sunk in these holes. In order to insure the cans being placed in the circle, a string was tied on a stick placed in the center of the place set aside for the game and a circle outlined with the string along which the cans were sunk. The distance was gradually increased, the holes being 3, 4, or 5 ft. away from each other.

In playing Clock Golf each hole should be numbered, a number being written on a piece of muslin tied on sticks and set up by the holes. The object of the game is to see in how few strokes it is possible to get the ball into all the holes with the putter.

On Country Club courses and public links, as well as playgrounds, individuals may be seen practising to perfect their strokes and at the same time getting keen enjoyment out of Clock Golf.



# The Opening of the Twelfth Recreation Congress

The Twelfth Recreation Congress was formally opened at the Auditorium in the city of Asheville, N. C., on Monday evening, October 5th, 1925, at 8:00 o'clock with Otto Mallery in the chair.

Among the local leaders who sat on the platform and who were introduced by the chairman were: A. Walter Hurt, Head of the Boy Scouts, Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Brooker, Recreation Committee, Mrs. O. C. Hamilton, S. Roger Miller, George Hurt, C. H. Barkett, A. C. Green, Chairman of the Park Commission, Norman E. Reed and Mrs. Curtis Browning.

The audience was led in the singing of a number of songs by Kenneth S. Clark.

The Chairman: The Twelfth National Recreation Congress marks another year of organized recreation. During these years America has not only acquired great wealth and leisure, but what is more important, we are learning how to use our wealth and leisure. We have made tremendous strides in this respect; how we have done it we shall hear more about in the sessions to follow.

We have representatives here from England, Italy, Canada, New England, and from every part of the United States.

We are here to exchange experiences and to give one another inspiration. We are here not only because we can lift our eyes to these beautiful hills of Asheville but for two other reasons—first, as a tribute to the South.

Twenty-five years ago there were only twelve cities in the whole of the United States that had directed recreation. Today out of seven hundred and eleven cities that have it over one-fourth are in the Southeast. And when we think of the great progress of recent years in North Carolina and Texas and Florida, the future looks even brighter than the past. There are nine cities in the State of North Carolina that have year round recreation movements and there are eleven cities which the representative of the national association is visiting and in which there are good prospects of a year round program.

We recall the glorious history of this State, and especially think of the pioneers, of Dr. Alderman and Governor Aycock, and of that good citizen and magnificent statesman, Walter Hines Page.

The second reason that we are in Asheville to-

night is because of the beauty and charm and play spirit of Asheville itself. No one could have done more than the people of Asheville to get us here and to treat us right while we are here. I have heard of Southern hospitality, but now I and all of you have experienced it and shall experience more of it. And, of all who have joined in extending this welcome to us there is one who has turned the town upside down for us. He has given us everything we wanted before we asked for it and if by chance there was some little thing that we thought of that he did not, the city government has rushed with fire engine speed to satisfy every desire. That person is one we have learned to admire and respect—our host and Mayor, Mr. John H. Cathey.

Mr. Cathey: In connection with the chairman's remarks about turning the city upside down, I want to hand it to little Johnnie Martin. I think he is up yonder tonight getting ready to play after we get away from here. I had told Mr. Rivers that if there was anything they wanted to let me know, and after I got back from a drive out in West Asheville on some business, I got the word from the Secretary,—“Johnnie Martin wants a steam roller and two fire trucks as soon as possible.” I have been used to steam rollers in politics before but I did not know that they were ever used as recreation. I said, “Where does he want it?” and he said, “Up at the plaza.” I didn't know what in the world he wanted with it but anyway in about thirty minutes the steam roller was up there on the job. Later I found out that he was preparing to have the old Virginia Reel and wanted the steam roller to smooth the rocks in front of the plaza so the ladies would not fall down. I understand that the two fire trucks were wanted by Mr. Hurt to accommodate the members of the band, to serve as a band stand. Instead of spending about two hundred dollars for lumber to build a band stand he just wanted to use the trucks—economy—that's Johnnie Martin again.

Now Ladies and Gentlemen, it has been my pleasure for the last two years to be Mayor of Asheville and during that time I have welcomed many conventions to our city, many of them national and some international. Among those that I think that Asheville needed most up to the



time of this Congress was the National Federation of Music Clubs. There are two things that Americans don't know how to do—one is to sing and the other is to play. So two years ago the music people came to try to teach us how to sing. One of the ladies didn't want to come up here on the stage tonight because she thought you people didn't know how to sing. In fact, there is not one person out of ten who can stand and sing the the national anthem from memory; and there is not one person out of ten, outside of children, who knows how to play, and that is one reason the national recreation people are trying to teach us how to play.

I feel a peculiar pleasure in welcoming this Congress tonight because I went to Atlantic City to your Eleventh Congress when it met there, and when I picked up the list of those registered, I found that outside of myself, Dr. Parker, who is one of the workers of the national association, and his wife were the only other representatives. And yet, North Carolina boasts of nearly three million people. The question entered my mind—what is the matter? I waited for my opportunity, and when Professor Dykkema asked the question if anyone present had had any experience with music and what they hoped to do by music, right there I took advantage of that little slip. I told them what Grand Opera had done for us, and although the invitation for this convention was not to be extended until Monday morning, and this was Friday, I told them that evidently from the registration the people didn't know what they were trying to do, and therefore the logical thing for the Congress to do was to come south of the Mason and Dixon line. And I took it upon myself then and there to invite the Congress to bury all sectional notions and obliterate all sectional lines and come south of the Mason and Dixon line, a line that never should have been written in our history. But I made the proviso that if it did come that there was only one place to come and that was Asheville. I found that Fort Worth, Texas, wanted this same convention, and they sent Tom Rivers down here to pick flaws in my invitation. He walked in and said he had come to find fault with my invitation. When he approached hotel facilities I overcame that, and I knocked Tom's remarks sky high just as fast as he could make them. I took care of all his arguments and even promised him the steam roller. Finally he got down to the last on the list, but I will leave that to Tom to tell you that, and therefore I won out.

I think Fort Worth is all right, and the next time you come south, please go to Fort Worth. We need you in the South. We didn't know what you were trying to put across and that is why we wanted you here. This Congress is doubly welcome to Asheville because the present administration which went into effect two years ago realized that every municipality owes a duty to its citizens which they have not given them. We have been voting bonds for schools and roads, but it was unheard of to spend the citizens' tax money for play, and this administration started out to revolutionize things.

We are glad to have you here for another reason. We have some here that are not converted, and before we go out in 1927 we hope to have them all converted.

The first thing we did was in the nature of providing playgrounds. We had four colored schools and ten white schools. Some were beautiful buildings on red hills with no playgrounds at all. We spent approximately \$40,000 to get these playgrounds in shape, and today I am glad to say that every school child in Asheville has the allotted space of one hundred feet of elbow room. We went a little further than this and we did what no other city in the United States has done. Now I am talking facts and figures to you and not hot air. We own, operate and make a profit out of a baseball team, operated by Roger Miller and Deacon Green. We spent \$250,000 to build an athletic field within three minutes' walk of the Square. We put in all modern plumbing and equipment in that grand stand and we even have a maid in the nursery. As a result of that we have about forty per cent. ladies in our attendance, and last year we did something that no other city has done. We took in over \$100,000 in paid subscriptions or practically three times the population of Asheville. Judge Landis was down here and said no other city had come near to taking in three times the population.

We have gone a step further, and just up the river we have provided a playground which includes everything that goes on a playground up to swimming and boating. And up above that, a little way, we have bought land and just finished an eighteen-hole golf course. By providing these two attractions so near together we have taken care of the entire family because you can take old John Henry or Pierce Arrow, which ever it may be, and take your whole family up there and while the old man is playing golf the children can take their choice and play anything they want.

That represents an expenditure of \$250,000, all of it taken out of the tax payers' money, and Ladies and Gentlemen, they are beginning to like it.

## International Week in Port Chester, N. Y.

People of all ages and both sexes had a chance to participate in Port Chester's Merchants'-Manufacturers' Exposition during the week of October 5-12. This exposition was sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce with a program of afternoon and evening entertainment furnished by the Recreation Commission. No event held in Port Chester has offered more varied attractions. There were fine exhibits from many local exhibitors. The Chamber of Commerce Booth, displaying among other things the cups to be given as prizes in the Port Chester National Marathon on Columbus Day, drew many admiring visitors. An orchestra played excellent music throughout each evening. In the afternoon as a part of the entertainment program a baby show, doll carriage parade, pet show, "Kookery Kontest," Pet Exhibition and Scout and Camp Fire demonstrations were held. And the six evenings were converted into a most interesting series which depicted the various folk backgrounds of Port Chester. Decorations consisted each evening of a display of national flags of those countries which were exhibiting, with the addition of lodge banners and ferns and palms.

Monday night was named "The Land of the Midnight Sun" and was under the auspices of Port Chester citizens of Scandinavian descent. Their booth was filled with articles of Scandinavian workmanship and design, all belonging to or made by Port Chester people. Handiwork, dishes, laces, tapestries, copper urns, blankets, a set of Danish Royal porcelain, a Swedish copper tea set and other beautiful articles drew the attention of many. A series of Norwegian folk songs, Danish folk songs and dances, ending in the singing of the Danish national anthem, made up the entertainment program. At the opening of the evening, a Czecho-Slovakian demonstration of Sokol gymnastics, with the participants dressed in white shirts, blue trousers, red ties and small hats with feathers, made a very effective spectacle.

The second night was under the auspices of the

Gaelic League and the Daughters of Scotia and was termed "The Thistle and the Shamrock." There was a booth display of Scotch articles, many of which were from 75 to 100 years old. Irish and Scotch folk dances and songs by performers dressed in native costume made the evening particularly entertaining.

On the third evening "America the Beautiful" was the subject of the evening, and the Girl and Boy Scouts, and Camp Fire Girls, the night school chorus and the community players in a one-act play entertained the large assembly.

"Symbols of Jewish Home Life" on the fourth evening brought a booth exhibit of beautiful tapestries, brass ware, religious symbols and a full display of cakes and breads connected with the various festivals. The pupils of the Americanization Classes had this evening in charge and orchestra selections, with a Russian dance done by a girl in costume, added much to the evening's enjoyment.

The fifth evening gave the people of "Sunny Italy" a chance to show their many beautiful possessions. Silks, brocades, weaving, linens, Italian cut-work and shawls were displayed. A pantomime—The Boyhood of Columbus—a minuet and selections by an Italian trombonist made up the program of the evening.

On the last night Port Chester Recreation held sway. Sports equipment, a display of summer handwork, posters, photographs, and recreation printed matter and texts filled the booth, and the local theatre loaned three professional acts. This evening ended one of the most interesting weeks which Port Chester has ever experienced.

Buy Christmas Seals. Buy as many as you can. They are the sturdy little guardians of your Merry Christmas and Healthy New Year.—The National, State, and Local Tuberculosis Associations of the United States.



# Special Classes and Demonstrations at the Recreation Congress

The last day of the Recreation Congress at Asheville was "Go-to-School" Day. In all the assembly rooms small groups were to be seen eagerly exchanging experiences, asking questions of group leaders and in intimate round-table discussions getting information which would help them in their particular problems, and at the same time giving from their experience to others. The question and discussion method of this group conference and the "give and take" spirit which characterized them made the classes and demonstrations one of the most valuable and helpful features of the Congress.

The discussion at the rural session led by Dr. C. B. Smith, Chief, Office of Cooperative Extension, U. S. Department of Agriculture, brought out three or four definite suggestions or principles. The first had to do with leadership and the distinct need for the training of recreation leaders for rural communities. There was emphasis, too, on the need for a central agency to get in touch with rural leaders in the different counties, states and sections of the country, supplying them with suggestions, literature and up-to-date information through personal visits and correspondence. It was urged that rural recreation workers keep continually in mind the importance of securing state legislation to support the rural programs in all states, just as cities are securing such financial assistance from state laws.

How to develop drama in rural districts was one of the problems discussed with keenest interest. The contributions made to such organizations as Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and the National Safety Council in making available good plays suitable for rural groups at inexpensive rates and with no royalty charge was offered as one means of helping to meet the problem. The help available through Extension Divisions of the State Universities was outlined by Miss Amanda Stolfus of the University of Texas, who told of suggested programs and literature sent by the divisions to school superintendents, teachers and others interested, and of demonstrations given in schools in rural districts of games, social recreation hours and singing. "There are now few meetings of boys' and girls' agricultural and home demonstration clubs organized in South Carolina," said Miss

L. I. Landrum, State Director of the home demonstration work, "which do not have recreation features. Camps are conducted for boys and girls, county councils for farm women are being organized, and increasingly community meetings consisting of farmers' families are being held."

An interesting development containing much promise for the recreation life of the rural district is the organization of the Bureau of Rural Life as a part of the program of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers. "Parent-Teacher associations in every state of the Union," said Mrs. John B. Cleaver, in charge of the Bureau, "report the creation of public sentiment for playgrounds and the provision of playground equipment for thousands of country children."

By unanimous vote, the delegates attending the Rural Recreation sessions urged that this section be continued another year.

## COMMUNITY DRAMA

The attendance at the Drama Section and the variety of questions asked gave ample evidence of the growing interest in the community phase of drama and its application everywhere. Barrett Clark, in opening the meeting, emphasized the importance of community drama for all the people when he said: "The most interesting and profound aspect of drama is the fact that amateur dramatics, well or badly done, is an essential function of life. Whether we like it or not, some sort of dramatic expression is a need as fundamental as any other need. It is spontaneous on the whole and not essentially regarded as an art. Before drama was art it was a manifestation of human life, and if it is to mean anything at all it must continue as such. One thing that has prevented American drama from growing is that our dramatists have known much about art but little about life. Only recently have they depicted life. For some reason we have finally caught up with life. There is nothing so interesting as people and the individual who cannot appreciate his fellow being cannot appreciate the drama."

Recreation workers are not trying to impose an art form on people; nor to create an artificial atmosphere, but they are attempting to guide dramatic instinct. The important thing is to discover



the need in the community and try to meet it. In general, Mr. Clark advised "forget the art of the theater. If the impulse is genuine, it will contain the outline of something worth while and will be beautiful."

Following Mr. Clark's address, the meeting broke up into small, round-table groups, each with a leader. One group discussed little theater problems; a second, play rehearsing; a third, problems of lighting, scenery and costumes; a fourth, the selection of plays, and a fifth, pageantry. But in no instance was it possible for the leader to stick to the subject, so varied were the questions asked. A visitor dropping in at the pageantry section was as likely as not to hear a discussion of lighting for plays, while the group presumably discussing plays for various occasions would be deep in the mystery of pageant set-up. "Do you advise giving a community group the lowbrow thing they want or the thing you think they ought to have? What lighting effects can you secure when you have nothing to work with? How may inexpensive machinery be constructed? And so it went from 9:30 to 4:30 and only a beginning made!

#### COMMUNITY MUSIC

In the Community Music Section, of which Professor Peter Dykema of Columbia University was Director, interest ran high. Recent developments in community singing, the organization of bands, orchestras, ukulele classes and other musical activities on the playground, the conducting of music memory contests and music weeks were only a few of the subjects on which questions were asked. And the members of the group soon discovered their participation in the program was not to be limited to the asking of questions! Before much time had elapsed, they found themselves "willy-nilly" in front of the class, leading songs or playing games with music.

Not the least interesting feature of the section was a report of the National Municipal Music Committee appointed at the Eleventh Recreation Congress at Atlantic City. Many instances were quoted in the report showing the tremendous growth of the movement for municipal music.

#### HANDCRAFT

The classes in Handcraft were full of practical suggestions to recreation workers, varying from the securing of free material from cotton goods factories, paper companies and manufacturing plants of different kinds to the organization of elaborate kite tournaments. Some of the most

interesting and practical suggestions had to do with the use of material costing nothing, such as pine needles and wild honeysuckle vines. Emphasis was laid on the small expense involved in the purchase of tools for handcraft activities, many of which may be secured at the five-and-ten-cent stores.

If the suggestions that went on in the class were not a sufficient demonstration of the growing interest in handcraft the local exhibits could not fail to convince any "doubting Thomas." The variety of the articles shown, ranging from the beautiful hand-made quilts from Scranton, Pennsylvania, to the baskets from wild honeysuckle vines which the children of Salisbury, North Carolina, and other Southern cities are making, showed the originality and beauty that are making of handcraft a truly creative art for children.

#### GAMES

Many old games were revived and new ones taught at the game demonstration conducted by John Martin of the P. R. A. A. Educational games, social games, children's games and game formation for large groups were demonstrated along with many other types of games and stunts.

It is very difficult to give an adequate idea of these classes in print, but many of the questions and answers will appear in our Question Box.

#### Education through Drama, Minnesota.—

The extension division of the University of Minnesota has made available a number of plays which have to do with various aspects of education. One form is the "dramatic debate," a novel idea, which is the simplest kind of drama, requiring only two characters and no scenery. One title is *Does Education Pay?* It is described as "a sure fire success as a means of selling education to the farmer. Nothing could be more convincing than this powerful presentation of otherwise dry information. The characters are the mossback farmer and the secretary of a coöperative creamery." A now well known pageant in Minnesota is entitled *The Green Knight*. Some titles of plays are: *The Crowning Glory*, having to do with hats and of especial interest to women; *Back to the Farm*, which explains the value of intelligent farming; *Partners*, which deals with developing a community church; *Kindling the Hearth Fire*, which is a real home economics play.—(From November, 1925, issue of *Rural America*.)



# Congress Resolutions

The report of the chairman of the Resolutions Committee was submitted as follows:

First: *Be It Resolved*, that we, the delegates to the Twelfth National Recreation Congress of America deeply appreciate the kind and thoughtful provisions that have been made for our entertainment and welfare, and hereby cordially express our thanks (1) to Mayor John H. Cathey, the Recreation Mayor of Asheville, the Recreation City, whose helpful participation, willing cooperation, far-sighted vision and kindly acts, have earned our enduring gratitude and admiration.

(2) to the Committee of Patrons and the Citizens of Asheville for their generous and delightful hospitality; (3) to the Chamber of Commerce for their material assistance and whole-hearted help at all stages of the arrangements, without which the success of the Congress would not have been possible, and (4) to the several newspapers of Asheville which have given space generously to the proceedings of the Congress, and whose editorial comments have given endorsements to our objectives, and thus brought to thousands of people throughout the United States and the world a better understanding of the Recreation Movement. (5) Then to Miss Kathrine Park, Superintendent of Recreation of Asheville, and the entire Recreation Department of the city, for the substantial contributions they have made to the Congress; and we cannot forget the Parent-Teacher Association for the charming and effective service which they have given at all times.

*It Is Further Resolved*: That we warmly thank the speakers, the chairmen, the consultants, the leaders, the accompanists, the Carolina Playmakers, the colored singers and all those who have helped to make the Congress a success, and that the Secretary be asked to write expressing our appreciation to each of these participants. It is

also resolved that a special vote of thanks be given to those who, at great effort and expense, have provided the many excellent and instructive exhibits.

The resolution proposed by the American Folk Dance Society is included in this resolution and reads as follows:

*Whereas*, a large portion of the American public keenly desire opportunities to learn and participate in dancing which is truly social, recreative and wholesome in character, and

*Whereas*, we desire to suggest a recreative, universally popular and constructive program to meet the needs of the above situation,

*Be It Resolved*, that it is the sense of the Congress that all educational and social forces be urged to join in a movement to encourage vigorously such folk games and dances as those promoted by the American Folk Dance Society.

*And Last, Be It Resolved*, that the Recreational Congress send its greetings to the National Recreation Agencies of other lands, recognizing our common heritage of the spirit of play.

We gratefully appreciate the assistance of those who came as delegates from other countries, and we extend to them our cordial good wishes in their kindred efforts.

With your permission, the Committee desires to add that in connection with the announcement that has come within the last few hours of the untimely death of the hero of baseball, Christy Mathewson, that man who has stood for clean sportsmanship everywhere, the ideal of the boys, we express our deep sympathy and our regret that his life should have been called to an end at such an untimely age.

With your permission, Mr. Chairman, I move that we adopt these resolutions.

The motion was seconded and adopted unanimously by rising vote.

The life of the world itself calls for those qualities in us which spring from the holding together of the team. If we hold together in the nation as we hold together in the team, in the boat race, in the tug-of-war, we shall give back to the nation a hundredfold the talents entrusted to us. Thus there grows up in us with our play that part of our life which makes the difference, as the years go by, between the men who help a nation on and the men who pull it back. If we are loyal to our team, to our school, we shall be loyal to our town and to our country. *The very beginnings of patriotism lie in our games.*

Reprinted from *Compton's Pictured Encyclopedia*.

# The Government and Community Recreation

By

F. R. McNINCH

Charlotte, North Carolina

Joseph Lee, Chairman: We have received this telegram: As President of North Carolina Physical Education Association and as Chief of the Bureau of Recreation of the University of North Carolina, I extend to the Congress for those agencies a royal welcome to the old North State, with sincere hopes for a session rich in achievements. Regret I can not be with you. Harold D. Meyer." (The inspired telegraph clerk wrote instead of "for a session rich in achievements," "secession," trying, I suppose, to put a little ginger into the proceedings. But I think if the South continues going at the pace that North Carolina has set, they will certainly leave the rest of us far behind, "secession" in that sense!) It is interesting to get this telegram from a man who is Chief of the Bureau of Recreation of the University of North Carolina. Last year at Atlantic City we heard from the head of the Drama Department of the University of North Carolina, and I think we were all tremendously impressed with the spirit at the University of North Carolina shown through him, and in other ways, as a real state university. It is a wonderful piece of work, the course in dramatics at the University of North Carolina.

The next telegram is from a graduate of Princeton, of the class of 1913, who is now the youngest Governor of a state in this country. A classmate of mine is a member of the Legislature of New Hampshire. He says that he is so enthusiastic about the Governor of New Hampshire that he can hardly speak on the subject—though he does speak, eloquently. He is a great governor, and he is going to be one of the great national figures. The gentleman who sent this telegram is also one of the large contributors to this association. Mr. Winant wires as follows:

"In spite of careful planning, illness will not permit me to keep my appointment to address the

convention on Tuesday morning. The work you are doing is invaluable to the public weal. Surplus energy must find outlet in clean and wholesome recreation. It is the business of our State governments to assist and cooperate in this work for which long experience and unselfish effort have pre-eminently fitted the Playground and Recreation Association of America. I very deeply regret my inability to be with you and wish the Congress every success. I want you to know that your playground campaign has my unqualified support." John G. Winant, Governor of New Hampshire.

Mr. F. R. McNinch: Mr. President. Former Comrades in the Work, Ladies and Gentlemen:

We were to have had Governor Winant this morning, as you have heard, to speak to us upon the *Responsibility of the Government for Promoting Community Recreation*, and I was to speak to you upon *What Government Is Doing in the Discharge of that Responsibility*. I have just been asked to say a few words upon the topic upon which Governor Winant was to have spoken, and, without having given particular thought to the subject, I will suggest some of the reasons why it is a responsibility of government to promote recreation.

Some writers upon political subjects have defined government to be the science of administering the public affairs of communities and states. I am not prepared to accept that as a correct definition of government as we know it, for if it be a science, it is, at best, an inexact science; but we will all agree, will we not, that, at least, government is the administration of the public affairs of communities and states. If this be a substantially correct definition, then it is the function of government to administer every public interest of society which may not be adequately administered by private agencies. Recreation, as a pub-

lic interest, cannot be best administered through private, or even quasi-public agencies, and, therefore, it is the business of government—national, state, municipal—to provide for and on behalf of the whole people, and at public expense, that which so vitally affects the quality of its citizenship.

It is the primary purpose of government to protect the life, the liberty and the property of its citizenship. How may a government effectively address itself to these ends by employing only suppressive measures? We have, from time immemorial, set up courts, the constabulary and penal institutions to suppress crime, and undoubtedly a great contribution has been made to the sum of human happiness through these agencies. But have we not been near-sighted when we have been willing to expend vast sums of money for the support of the judiciary whose purpose as to crime is suppressive and corrective, but have not been willing to set in motion preventive agencies directed toward the lessening of criminal conduct? If we are with any degree of success to combat the crime wave, as some have called it—the tide of crime, as another has more aptly termed it—that is sweeping over this country and threatening the very foundations of society, then government must set in motion constructive measures such as public recreation which tend toward prevention of crime and, thereby, supplement the corrective agencies.

If government—national, state and municipal—would set up public and supervised recreation facilities throughout America so that they might be available to every man, woman and child, it would add immeasurably to the physical fitness and mental efficiency, to the common happiness and solidarity of our people. If this be true, then it is the business of government to promote recreation in America.

Frank Tannenbaum has stated the case when he says that "the trouble is that suppression does not suppress; it distorts." We have been guilty of shallow thinking when we have allowed ourselves to believe that we can suppress crime by coercion only. We may divert it; may build a dam across the natural channel of expression; but if we do we may be certain that this dammed up and mighty power will cut across the strata of society and find expression in thought and action, which will leave ugly chasms of vice and crime in its wake.

Ham Bone said recently, "De trouble wid dis debilment is dat dere is too much runnin' ob it

down and not enuff headin' it off." That is the whole philosophy of recreation. It heads off. We have spent too much time in denouncing the vice and folly of youth and have given too little time to anything that is intended to head it off. Wholesome recreation offers to youth a substitute for mischief. Government owes to its subjects the opportunity for clean, constructive expression.

Now, what is government doing to meet the responsibility of which I have briefly spoken? I shall treat what it is doing under three general heads, national, state and municipal.

What is the national government doing? What has the national government done to meet this challenging responsibility to provide recreation for its people? Again I shall divide that subject into three heads, executive, legislative and judicial.

First, what is the chief executive of this national government doing to promote recreation? President Coolidge called a National Outdoor Conference to meet in Washington May 22nd to 25th, 1924. It was an epoch-making thing, that a President should take notice of that which by many has been regarded as the interest, chiefly, of half-balanced folks who talk about the necessity of teaching children to play and of providing play spots for folks who ought to be at work. Therefore, an unusual significance attaches to what the President did, and even more to what he said. Not only because he is President, but because of the manner in which he said it; and for the sake of accuracy I want to read, rather than attempt to quote, some of the things President Coolidge did say on that occasion:

"The physical vigor, moral strength and clean simplicity of mind of the American people," said President Coolidge, "can be immeasurably furthered by the properly developed opportunities for the life in the open. Our aim in this country must be to try to put the chance for out-of-door pleasure, with all that it means, within the grasp of the rank and file of our people, the poor man as well as the rich man. Country recreation for as many of our people as possible should be our objective."

And in his splendid opening address to that conference he said:

"We have at hand these great resources and opportunities. They cannot be utilized to their fullest extent without careful organization and methodical purpose. Our youth need instruction in how to play as much as they do in how to work." Think, will you, for a moment, of the



value to the cause of recreation of this statement that our children need as much to be taught how to play as they do how to work.

"Those who are engaged in our industries," said the President, "need an opportunity for outdoor life and recreation no less than they need opportunity of employment. Side by side with the industrial plant should be the gymnasium and the athletic field. Along with the learning of a trade by which a livelihood is to be earned should go the learning of how to participate in the activities of recreation, by which life may not only be more enjoyable but more rounded out and complete. The country needs instruction in order that we may better secure those results."

Then, said President Coolidge, to point to the value of recreation as an aid to democracy:

"A special consideration suggests the value of a development of national interest in recreation and sports. There is no better common denominator of a people. In the case of a people which represents many nations, cultures and races, as does our own, a unification of interests and ideals in recreations is bound to wield a telling influence for solidarity of the entire population. No more truly democratic force can be set off against the tendency to class and caste than the democracy of individual parts and prowess in sport."

And then he said this fine thing in conclusion:

"I want to see all Americans have a reasonable amount of leisure. Then I want to see them educated to use such leisure for their own enjoyment and betterment and the strengthening of the quality of their citizenship. We can go a long way in that direction by getting them out of doors and really interested in nature. We can make still further progress by engaging them in games and sports. Our country is a land of cultured men and women. It is a land of agriculture, of industries, of schools, and of places of religious worship. It is a land of varied climes and scenery, of mountain and plain, of lake and river. It is the American heritage. We must make it a land of vision, a land of work, of sincere striving for the good, but we must add to all these, in order to round out the full stature of the people, an ample effort to make it a land of wholesome enjoyment and perennial gladness."

Almost, Mr. President, when I read these utterances, when I contemplate their far-reaching influence, when I am conscious of the great momentum they will give to this vital movement, almost, Mr. President, thou persuadest me, a

Southern Democrat, to be a Republican, at least a recreation Republican!

In response to the call of the President, 302 delegates representing 128 national organizations met and formed a permanent organization with an Advisory Committee of 170 and an Executive Committee of 10. After three days' intensive work, this National Outdoor Conference passed resolutions expressing its judgment as to phases of outdoor recreation to be promoted. It appointed permanent committees and provided for further studies and surveys in various fields of recreation; it provided for annual meetings and the employment of a whole-time director, or secretary, who is now actively and every day giving federal coöperation in a national program of recreation. This conference asked the President, the governors of states and mayors of cities to proclaim a National Recreation Day.

These are some of the things the Chief Executive of our national government is doing in fronting what he recognizes to be a governmental function and a responsibility which must be met. All of us who have been especially interested in this problem are grateful for this official action on the part of our President, this concrete evidence of the government's acknowledgment of its responsibility, this piece of national machinery set up to help meet a great problem and a great responsibility.

Second, what has the national government done, legislatively, in recognition of its obligation? The first national recognition of public recreation was in 1872, when the Yellowstone National Park Act was enacted by Congress. Out of that act has grown the policy of the establishment of national parks and forests. It was a far-sighted thing that a man of vision from Montana led the Federal Government to do, and as a result of it today there are sixteen national parks, with an aggregate of nearly five million acres.

Reflect upon the recreation value, upon the innumerable resources for recreation within five millions of acres set aside as national parks. There are also 156 millions of acres of land in our national forests, much of it, it is true, not at present fit for recreation purposes, but a great portion of it susceptible of development. And there are 34 national monuments with an aggregate estimated acreage of between one and one-half and two million acres, which comprise within that area a wealth of scenic grandeur and interesting objects of pre-historic, historic, scientific and recreation values.



So that in all, this government, since 1872, has set aside something like 175 million acres of land containing invaluable opportunities and resources for out-of-door life and recreation. This is a stupendous contribution to the cause of public recreation in America.

Third, the judiciary has made a great contribution to the cause. May I call attention to the case of *Shoemaker vs. The United States*, which had its origin in setting aside a park at Washington, in the District of Columbia, when Congress, for the first time in the history of this Government, undertook by legislation to appoint a commission to condemn land for park purposes and to assess against the abutting land the benefits which might accrue to that land by reason of the establishment of the park. The constitutionality of this act was challenged, of course, for it was a novel thing that Congress had undertaken to do, which was, in substance, an effort to point out a way by which you might take private land for public park purposes and have the abutting property owners pay for the land thus taken by assessing the benefits or enhancements in values against such abutting property.

And yet the Supreme Court of the United States, in a unanimous opinion which has never been challenged, said, in substance, this: "In memory of man now living a proposition to take private property without the consent of the owner for a public park and assess a proportional part of the cost upon real estate benefited thereby, would have been regarded as an unlawful exercise of legislative power; but land taken for recreation, for health or for business, is taken for a public use. The cases heretofore cited were most of them cases in which it was likewise held that it is competent for the legislature, in providing for the cost of such parks, to assess a proportionate part of the cost upon the property benefited."

So that the national judiciary has greatly aided the cause of recreation by declaring it is constitutional to take private property for a public park, and then if it is a fact that adjacent property has been benefited, as will nearly always be true, to assess a proportionate part or all of the cost of the park land against abutting and benefited property. This decision points the way for state legislatures and municipalities to provide parks, playgrounds and recreational facilities and assess a portion of the cost against abutting and benefited properties.

In brief, these are some of the things the na-

tional government has done to meet its responsibility for recreation.

Next, what have the states done to meet their responsibility for promoting recreation? Twenty-eight states have, by official action, set aside a little more than seven million acres as state parks: twenty-one states have recently enacted legislation permissive of the expenditure of tax money, and setting up machinery by which such taxes may be levied, for the support of municipal recreation. By home rule legislation in twelve states, at least, the people are given the right by initiative or referendum to vote upon the question as to whether they will or will not specially tax themselves for public recreation.

Under such state legislation, in 1924, there were fourteen towns and cities in Iowa and Illinois which voted in popular elections to tax themselves for the support of public recreation, and the total amount of the annual budgets for recreation in these fourteen cities and towns is over \$100,000.

In Rhode Island, the smallest and most densely populated State in our nation, within one week from the date of the ratification of a legislative act allowing it to be done, seven cities and towns made appropriations for public recreation programs, showing that the people of Rhode Island were hungry for recreation and had only been held back heretofore by legal prohibition to spend tax money for this purpose.

In New York State, in the City of Mt. Vernon, the women got busy immediately after the enactment of such state legislation, circulated a petition and brought on an election. The special recreation tax of \$20,000, annually, carried by a vote of substantially four to one. And so I might cite, if I had time, other towns and cities that have acted under this referendum law.

What have municipalities done for the cause of recreation? In a word, I can tell you that the municipalities of America last year did more to meet their responsibility for recreation, expended more money, and discharged their responsibility more fully than they have ever done before in any year in the history of the world. They expended twenty millions of dollars last year, as against 14 millions of dollars the year before, and 9 millions of dollars in 1922. In 1907, one year after the Playground and Recreation Association was organized, only one million dollars was expended in America for public recreation. While we have made steady progress during all of the years, we have made marvelous progress in the

amount of money expended during the past two years.

Other facts that are equally, if not more indicative of what communities are doing are: in 1923, 12,000 recreation workers were employed in America, while in 1924 this number was increased to nearly 16,000. In 219 cities reporting, there were 1,389 school buildings used as evening recreation centers, or a gain of 262 such buildings over the previous year—an average of five additional school buildings per week opening up as evening recreation centers.

This to me is one of the most substantial advances we have made, because it represents an economic as well as recreational gain. We have for too long permitted the school facilities of America, representing billions of dollars of the people's money, to remain as frozen assets, going to waste during the months of vacation, the weekends and in the afternoons from the time school is out until the next morning. It is an encouraging fact that there is a rapidly increasing number of school buildings, which are being liquidated and given currency in serving the people as recreation centers.

God speed the day when the people of America will realize that it is absolutely indefensible, that it is inexcusable, to expend vast sums of money on facilities so easily adaptable as recreation centers after school hours and leave them unused, when the people of the community are hungry for recreation, and when these buildings could contribute so much to community happiness and solidarity if used as community centers.

I hate to peddle statistics, but I don't know how else to tell you the story than by the employment of more figures. There are 530 cities employing one or more year-round recreation workers. Of 711 cities reporting sufficient data for analysis, it appears that 386 reported recreation interests municipally administered. Of this number only 302 are entirely supported by municipal funds, while the other 84, although jointly supported by private and public funds, are, nevertheless, administered by the municipality. This is a recognition of the city's responsibility and of the municipality's ability to do a better job than private agencies in administering public recreation.

In 1918 only 34 independent municipal recreation commissions existed. There were many recreation bodies and organizations, but municipal officers, until within recent years, did not recognize their responsibility, and it was placed upon

school boards and women's organizations and private agencies. But in 1924 there were 89 municipalities that had set up entirely independent recreation commissions to administer the recreation interests of their people. This marks a great advance and indicates that municipalities are more and more facing and accepting governmental responsibility for public recreation. As further illustrating this fact, fifty-five cities have established civil service examinations for the employment of recreation workers. In 28 cities last year a new high water mark was established when more than 11 million dollars were voted in bond issues for recreation purposes, a gain of more than a million dollars over the preceding year.

I did hope I might tell you something about the notable progress in particular cities in North Carolina and elsewhere, and I jotted down some data, but I shall not have the time to do so. In this attractive and beautiful city of Asheville, where we are meeting, they are setting up a program that in another year will challenge the interest and admiration of people everywhere. They are doing things upon a broad scale and laying a firm foundation for a municipally administered recreation system that will minister to the needs of its whole people. The municipal golf course and other facilities will soon be available to the people.

Winston-Salem, N. C., appropriated this year \$55,000 of tax money for recreation and is putting on a very comprehensive program. Greensboro is inaugurating an exceptionally good program and through cooperation of municipal and private agencies is setting aside something like 1,000 acres for recreation. But I cannot, within the limits of my time, even so much as call the roll of cities and towns in North Carolina, which are going forward with public recreation; neither can I touch upon the municipal participation in recreation throughout the new South, as well as in the North, East and West.

But what has been done is only a beginning as compared with the need. For the advancing armies of commerce, trade and industry have made economic battlefields of the open spaces, which were once vocal with the music and laughter of children at play. Unless we provide other playgrounds, other facilities for expression, the child must either not play and suffer the blight of idleness, or play in the streets and gamble on the chance that he may not be numbered among the 1,600 whose eager little lives are annually crushed beneath the juggernaut wheels of traffic, leaving

a trail of blood to witness the slaughter of the innocents at play.

In the march of what we have been pleased to call progress we have wasted one of our greatest national resources, namely, the leisure time of our children. Thought and money have been invested to conserve our natural resources in forests, streams and mines for future generations, but we have neglected to conserve the great wealth of our child life for whose material benefits we have so concerned ourselves. Let us thoughtfully face this arresting problem: What shall it profit the children of today if tomorrow they shall gain the whole world of material wealth, yet come into their inheritance with impoverished physical, moral and spiritual natures?

But the light is breaking, the shadows are lifting and a brighter, happier day is dawning. For everywhere men and women of vision are rallying to the support of the movement for more and better playgrounds and recreation facilities. The Playground and Recreation Association of America, with Colonel Roosevelt as its first president, and later under the able and devoted leadership of Joseph Lee as president and Howard S. Braucher secretary, has made really great progress in promoting the recreation movement. But there are still hundreds of towns and cities with not a playground and no play facilities and hundreds of thousands of children are today suffering the pangs of unsatisfied play hunger. These must not perish, their potential happiness and power must be saved to the nation.

This is the task that challenges our imagination, our courage, our love, our sense of justice,

our patriotism, and I hope that all present may rededicate ourselves with high resolve to this program for building through recreation the stronger bodies, cleaner brains and sturdier moral fibre which are the stuff of which we shall make an unmatched citizenship after the manner described by Stevenson:

Happy hearts and happy faces  
Happy play in grassy places:  
That was how in ancient ages  
Children grew to kings and sages.

## In Spite of the Drought

During the past summer central Texas suffered a serious drought which dried up the rivers to such an extent that swimming was impossible. The Working Boys' Club of Waco was faced with the necessity of providing a swimming place for boys and girls who were unable to pay the fee asked in the private swimming pools. This is the way the problem was solved:

Seven years ago the foundation for a large hotel and office building was dug in the heart of the city. When the war came on operation on the building ceased, leaving a large hole in the ground. Here a swimming pool was constructed by a private concern which also erected some low stores on the ground floor. A year ago the building burned, completely destroying everything but the swimming pool shell made of concrete. With a group of boys from the club and some trucks loaned by the city, the Working Boys' Club, of

(Concluded on page 512)



CHILDREN'S THEATER, OAK PARK, ILL.—CAST FROM "BEAU OF BATH" AND "ASHES OF ROSES"

There are monthly performances throughout the year, and at Christmas time the children appear as well before the churches, clubs and schools of the community. The demand for the plays is heavy. The children are not only grounded in an appreciation of dramatic literature and the first principles of dramatics, but are given lessons in color values and stage settings. Mrs. Joy Crawford is dramatic director and Miss Josephine Blackstock is superintendent of playgrounds



# Finding God in Beauty\*

By

ZONA GALE

At the Mission Inn at Riverside, California, there is a patio where lunch is served, a place of light and air, of orange trees and parrots, of a fountain and, from one of the balconies above, harp music. Carved in the stone wall above the heads of the people one reads:

"Where there is no vision the people perish."

On a warm April day of this year, when the patio was crowded, a man came to the Inn desk and asked for a table outside. He was brown, boisterous, heavy, with loose lips and evident eyes. When he was told that all the outside tables were engaged for an hour ahead he turned away with the disappointment of a little boy, sighed, and sat down in the inside dining-room.

What was it that he had wanted and what was it that he had missed? Beauty. Dimly and doubtless without the least idea of what he sought, he had been groping toward an hour of color and soft sound. Toward Another Air, almost another medium from that in which ordinarily he moved. Toward Beauty.

Picnickers, hikers, campers—it is true that they seek exercise, company, adventure, freedom. But more than all these they want that which they rarely have—another air, another medium from that of every day. One thing can give it to them: Beauty. An unpromising wayfarer will take the trouble to point you to a "view." This is not for the appeal to the eye, for he is not an artist and may not sense what he sees. But a "landscape" will give him a momentary new and better experience, and about it he will try to tell. And even if all that he can bring out is "Some sight-seeing!" you catch his realization of a magic. Of a change. Of the approach of Beauty. On a Summer Sunday afternoon the appalling confusion at the beaches yields the spectacle of the same quest. When one has counted out the curious, there remains the majority, glad of the idleness, of the liberty from clothing, the warm coolness of air and water, but above all of the Difference. Of a sense of some gracious otherness, indefinable. Sometimes in a picture gallery they go down the line inarticulate, empty of definite impression but besieged by an experi-

ence which they do not know how to admit: the experience of beauty. A concert hall is starred with faces which know nothing of the music's method but are reflecting its mystery—the something which lies beyond. That is what a park is for—to remind the people that beautiful things wait all the time for attention: shy, gentle, tender, all these faint messengers speak to us of some state other than our own. In them Beauty pricks through to hint at her reality.

All these intimations of beauty affect in the same way those who like them enough. *They induce a mood.* Camp, beach, gallery, concert, all alike induce in us a new mood. This mood is our personal experience of Beauty. And Beauty, save Love itself, is our closest approach to God.

Recall the sense of it. An autumn sunset of ochre, a spring sunrise of gray, a summer noon of clear cobalt. Recall a field of flowers, especially of strange flowers, and chanced upon abruptly. Even such a memory is itself an experience. An experience of outflowing and in-flowing, a correspondence between spirit within and a spirit without, which is exquisite, wistful, vast. No one ever faces beauty (in silence) without receiving a moment of such correspondence.

The spirit within and the spirit without, speaking. And according to the fineness of the observer, will this speech be faint or clear. This is an intense form of happiness. Often in such a moment one of us will try to become articulate. To either the memory or the imagination of such moments we owe much that is beautiful in art. Shelley's "flush of rose on peaks divine" and Wordsworth's inner eye and Milton's celestial light shining inward and countless cries in word or color or form or chord have been but the need to give a voice to this beauty and to its correspondence in the spirits of men and women.

Not only these, but every right action of the most commonplace person alive is an unconscious attempt to express beauty in his own living.

Now, these expressions are all a high form of prayer. Of deep within calling unto deep without. Keats and Schubert and Turner put it in one way. The psalmist put it: "Oh God, how

\*Published by courtesy of *The World Tomorrow*, May, 1922.



manifold are thy blessings." The ordinary man or woman puts it: "Create within me a clean heart." In every case a cry about beauty. But conscious or unconscious, a prayer. Prayer at its highest is precisely that: a flowing out of the spirit and a flowing in of an essential beauty. Or call it a touching at the great dynamo of essential power. Or call it a momentary or sustained contact with God.

Consider, for example, a form of prayer used by many on first awakening when the night has washed the spirit clean and even the cells of brain and body are heightened. First a mere strong impulse to be briefly free of the body. Then a stronger impulse to transcend the mind. Then a desire to inhabit one's own spirit and to rise with it to one's own highest conception of God. A definite lift of being, toward God. Then the return, through spirit, through mind, to body—and the day begun thus permeated, stamped with the highest form of beauty that one knows. Through the day or before sleeping, whenever there is a moment when solitude can be entered or achieved, this same touch with the highest form of beauty that one knows. Here is a meeting place with God, not made with hands.

In such ways every activity of the day becomes transfigured. The task, the friend, the stranger, all are sublimated—they glow with new light. This is literally true. It is hard to be critical, to be irritable, to be false when one has lately been stirred by the experience of beauty. Here then is every detail of one's routine to be flooded at will by a current of light and power, *and by a subtle happiness*, a happiness pervading and possessing.

In other words, there is something to do to life, to any life, which is different from giving it bodily or intellectual power or spiritual power as most of us have known it. There is a level of living to be reached which gives a joyousness and lightness and buoyancy experienced by the mass of mankind only in rare moments.

"Life more abundant."

The words have a familiar ring. We have said them over glibly in texts and heard them in sermons.

Now, the search for life more abundant, in this very sense of deeper inner perception, is exactly what religion is.

The whole area of religious controversy may

be lighted today by the understanding that human life is really a rich and joyous thing which most human beings never discover it to be. That this that we turn to as the life of the spirit, which some controversialists have made into a pale ideal of asceticism and renouncement, is in reality a heightening of our usual powers of perception to include glorious things which life holds and holds now. The scientists tell us that we know only the margin of possibilities of color and sound. Jesus told us that we know only the margin of the possibilities of all our common life.

And he showed us how to begin to learn about ourselves and about our relation to great and unsuspected conditions. He gave us the method of discovery of what we are—for which there is a technique just as definite as the technique in learning any other art.

His direction is simple, summed up as it is in love. Say first in behaving toward everybody as we would behave if we did love them. This is the elementary course. Next actually to love one's neighbor, and thus the elementary course will become second nature. Love thus filling the heart, it begins to flow out and to meet the Silent Loveliness, in love to God. After that one constantly tries for meeting places with Him in beauty, beauty of experience, of conduct, of visualization. Tries to increase the meeting places with Him for all men.

The idea that one was to do all this simply to save one's soul from torment was, of course, mere lack of imagination. One was to do this that one might have, and give, life more abundant.

The idea that one was to "renounce and go gloomy" was still greater lack of imagination. One was to have, and give, life more abundant! No one who dances beautifully ever really regrets hopscotch or thinks of himself as having renounced it.

Life more abundant. It is the prize for which in his own way everybody is seeking or is wretched because he thinks that he has lost. There is in every human being that which happily gravitates toward another air, another medium of life. It is this, simply, which at its best religion tries to offer, for here, for now and forever.

A man's religion is his program for the enrichment of human life by bringing it into relation with essential beauty, essential love, essential vision of God.

# Special Activities for the Playground\*

By

CHARLES ENGLISH

*Supervisor, Bureau of Recreation, Board of Education, Chicago*

It is assumed that what is meant by special activities for the playground are those events on the program that are more or less unusual, or at least still in the experimental stage of development. In this paper the old time honored, standard activities will not be presented, but an attempt will be made to outline briefly some of the newer phases of the work—either those which are being tried in Chicago, or those which have been heard of elsewhere.

The policy of the Board of Education Recreation Department is to put such activities as fall under the general heading of "handcraft and educational" on the basis of 50-50 valuation with the sports and athletics. The ratio for girls in favor of handcraft is even greater than 50-50.

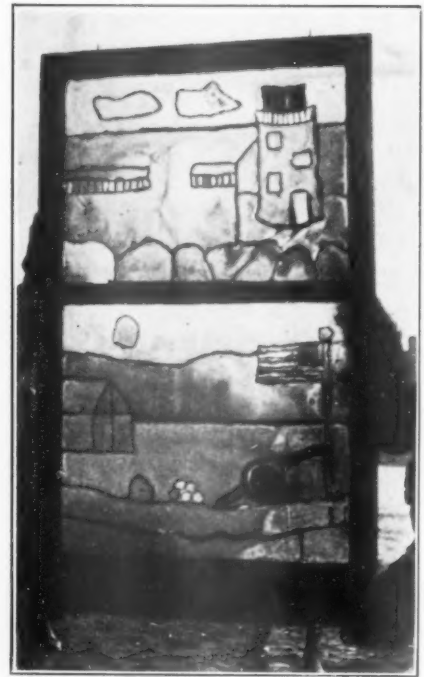
We have found that a goodly number of children using the playground desire other than an athletic program. Even the athletes themselves want changes. On the whole, a greater general participation is secured by offering a variety of activities designed to interest the boys and girls, no matter how varied these tastes and hungers may be. There is, of course, a great advantage in operating a year-round playground system where the seasons may be recognized by promoting suitable events. It also affords a much greater range of activities. Some of these activities, very briefly outlined, are as follows:

## SNOW MODELING, PAINTING AND STAINED WINDOWS

**Snow Modeling:** In the northern climate where snow is available, snow modeling is a fascinating activity. The material is free to all, is easily handled and the activity may be put on a contest basis. Snow can be modeled in zero weather by adding water to snow, forming a slush. To make it more realistic, paint may be used.

**Painting:** Prepare a block of snow ice in a frame and use ordinary house paint.

**Stained Glass Windows:** This requires an old window pane and frame. In it outline designs



STAINED GLASS WINDOW WORK—  
CHICAGO, ILL.

with ridges of putty, fill in the color scheme with colored water and allow to freeze.

## WHITTTLING

The revival of the old Yankee Art of Whittling is a good event for spring or hot weather. (A distinction should be made between *whittling* and *carving*.) It is desirable in whittling to leave the wood the natural color and not paint it. A further distinction is that the whole object shows whittling work as against an object in which only a part is whittled. This activity makes splendid display material.

## ORIGINAL DOLL SHOW

There is always room for development in this event, no matter how many times it is promoted. Newer ideas in the use of material and in design are seen each year. This activity also makes a very fine display for public exhibition.

\*Report of Section Meeting on Special Activities held at Recreation Congress, Asheville, North Carolina, October 5-10, 1925.



DOLL VILLAGE, CHICAGO, ILL.

#### SAND CRAFT

Too little attention is given generally to sand play. In order to generate interest and develop new ideas, a team of six is chosen from each playground in Chicago to enter a city-wide contest. A downtown store furnishes tables, sand and salty water, and gives window space for the teams, who work out designs on the spot. The judging is on the basis of (1) pure modeling and (2) modeling with accessories.

#### MARDI GRAS

If confined to small "floats" in keeping with a child's ability in design, this event has one of the greatest possibilities for the development of the creative, artistic and manual arts. The paper flower and paper decoration is in the main the material used. Each float must have a motive, and children in costume may augment the picture. This event is used with very good results as a climax to a summer's program.

#### MODEL BOATS AND AEROPLANES

These two events are of the highest order in the handcraft activities in use on playgrounds today. Especially is this true of aeroplanes which require skill that only a relatively few acquire. It is a remarkable activity, and one growing in popularity. It requires special material, a special place to do good work, and therefore is classified in the highly specialized group. V. K. Brown, of the South Parks, has developed this field to a

remarkable degree. He can and will furnish detailed information.

#### TOYS

Even though you are not operating a playground in December, the formation of groups of children to make new toys and fix up old ones for distribution through the philanthropic organizations of the city is serving two needs. It helps the organization and gives joy to the children who receive the toys. Moreover, the joy experienced by the children in making something for others brings much happiness to them.

#### RADIO

There are still boys and girls who have not made "crystal receiving sets." In Chicago we limit the material costs to \$1.50. Three classifications are made: (1) Most novel, (2) Best constructed, (3) Most unique. It is very unsatisfactory to try to test for long distance if you have many in the contest. Radio people will be glad to assist in instruction, display and prizes.

#### PLAYGROUND RODEO

For two years the Chicago Board of Education playgrounds have conducted a "fancy roping contest." The events for the first year were: (1) Roping a moving object, (2) Roping a still object 10 feet away, (3) Making a circle and jumping in and out, (4) Optional event.

The events for the second year were harder.





ROPE THROWING, CHICAGO, ILL.

Rodeos are becoming more popular and in Chicago we have endeavored to capture the growing interest. It is a difficult event and a fine muscular exercise.

#### BASEBALL PITCHING TOURNAMENT

This is a good event for the end of the baseball season. For the "pitching" event, erect a board or mark on side of a vertical surface an opening 17 inches wide, 44 inches long, and 20 inches from the ground. This is the average shoulder to knee length of a boy under fifteen years, or is the opening through which a ball should be thrown to make a perfect strike. Forty feet is pitcher's distance for juniors and regulation for seniors. Nine throws allowed. Each speed ball counts one point, and each curved ball two points.

In the tournament the following events are held: (1) Fungo batting for distance, (2) Baseball throw for distance, (3) Throwing ball around bases for time, (4) Running around bases for time, (5) Accuracy throw from second to home, (6) Accuracy throw from field to home.

#### O'LEARY

This make a fine contest for girls in the spring. It lends itself to competition, and the numbers of events are almost unlimited. After going through with one hand, change to the other.

#### DIABOLO

This old English game was revived in Chicago by the boys themselves. By observation we learned the common moves and their names. Putting together eight of them, we formed a contest. Keen rivalry and real skill were developed. This is a fall activity, at least in Chicago, as is also

top spinning. The boys there have turned the seasons around from the old days when tops were prime favorites in the spring. Baseball and marbles seem to have crowded them out, as spring activities.

#### LOW ORGANIZATION GAMES CONTEST

In this contest five games are used, such as Corner Spry, Club Snatch and similar games. Such a contest has the advantage of familiarizing instructors with this type of games and of encouraging their use. It counteracts over-emphasis on the highly organized games, builds up interest and increased attendance when the children realize that low organization games may be used in team competition.

#### FOLK DANCE CONTEST

Such dances as the Virginia Reel, Ace of Diamonds, the Czebogar, are used in Chicago, together with an optional dance which may be either a May pole dance or a dramatic, singing game. It was possible to prove through these contests that such dances can be taught out of doors, even without music and can be an important part of the regular program.

#### APPARATUS CONTEST

This is more of a stunt game on apparatus than formal gymnastics. Good form, proper approach and perfect landing are insisted upon. Thirteen optional exercises are listed. Instructors pick out the ten best suited for the ground. Each exercise is conducted on the basis of ten.

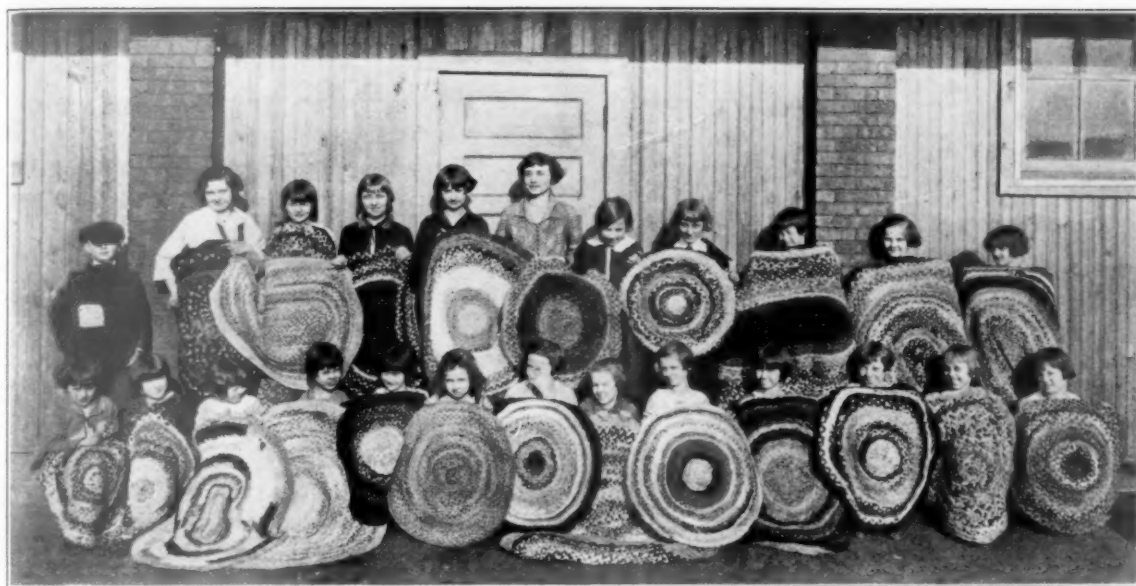
#### JUNIOR POLICE

As an aid to the instructor in developing the program and maintaining discipline, the school playgrounds of Chicago have organized junior police in groups of eight boys and a sergeant. Each member wears a pin somewhat similar to a police star. The city has been districted with lieutenants in charge of each group with eight playgrounds under his control. Two districts are under the jurisdiction of a captain. A chief of police is the ranking officer. The chief, captains and lieutenants are chosen from among the cadet officers of the R. O. T. C. organization of the high schools.

#### KNOT HOLE CLUB

Practically every week during the baseball season the Chicago National and American League Baseball Clubs provide the department with 700





RUG WEAVING, CHICAGO, ILL.

tickets to the baseball games. These are distributed among the grounds as awards to boys and girls who have performed some meritorious work.

#### MUSIC MONTH

In the fall we conduct four musical activities, using the harmonica, the ukelele, whistling and the barber shop quartette.

The harmonica is being recognized as the most fascinating of musical instruments for beginners. At the recent circus over 1,000 children played three numbers with remarkable effect. The informal playing by youthful harmonica players with children grouped around them singing and dancing is one of the excellent features of this part of music month.

The ukelele has been taken up by girls. In Chicago we held contests, six girls constituting a team with at least two instruments in the group. The songs required in the last contest were *Aloha* and *Carry Me Back to Old Virginny*, an original song (words not music), and an optional selection. This activity is exceedingly popular. It continues throughout the year and the same informal group participation is noticeable as in the harmonica playing.

Whistling is a new activity. Both boys and girls enter the contests, whistling any tune they wish in any manner. Newark, New Jersey, has developed this in a large way.

To encourage the "near harmony" gang which frequents the playground in the evening, we have

enticed them into competition in barber shop quartettes. *I've Been Working on the Railroad*, *Sweet Adeline* and the classics of a generation ago may be heard. Then the better type of music is given, including some characteristic national airs from the foreign born.

#### SAFETY CAMPAIGN

Falling in step with the general movement for "Safety" our campaign is running through the months of September and October. A button is awarded to each boy and girl from seven to fourteen years of age who signs a pledge. The text of the pledge is contained on the cards which are available for anyone who desires to send for them.

Following Mr. English's paper, the question was asked as to whether the special activities described attracted a new group of children from the various neighborhoods. Mr. English replied that inevitably a large number were regular attendants, but special effort is always made to draw in new people. Moreover, new activities almost always attract certain new individuals who have found no particular interest in participating in other activities. In answer to a question regarding equipment, Mr. English stated that practically all the equipment is furnished by those participating.

Mr. Sutch, of Scranton, Pennsylvania, reported a system of awards used in connection with lantern parades in his city. The children are grouped



EXHIBIT KITES

by schools and awards are made to the school having the largest number of boys carrying lanterns, and to that having the largest number of girls participating with lanterns. A third prize is given to the school with the highest total of individuals carrying lanterns, while a fourth goes to the school whose representatives come the greatest distance to participate in the parade.

One of the most encouraging things in Canadian life today is the way people as a whole are turning to the outdoor life and to wholesome amateur sport. Last winter in Ottawa thousands of people of every age took up the sport of skiing and every night and Saturday afternoon the hills about the city were covered with gay and laughing crowds. Every Saturday special trains of skiers left for the Laurentian hills, which are just outside Ottawa, where there are long cross-country trails with clubhouses along the way. So great was the interest in this form of sport that I am told both the picture houses and the dance halls suffered, while hostesses found it difficult to get enough young people together to give a dance. A similar movement towards summer sports has been noticeable everywhere. Golf clubs have been springing up on every side and tennis has had a remarkable revival. The result has been a very noticeable falling off in attendance at the professional games, so much so that some clubs have found it difficult to get enough gate receipts to pay their expenses.—*W. W. Cory, Deputy Minister, Department of the Interior, Ottawa, Canada.*

## "The First Year" at Mount Kisco, N. Y.

More tennis courts were wanted on the park playgrounds at Mount Kisco. Something had to be done about it, so the group of young folks who wanted them most decided to put on an amateur production for money. The result was a splendid presentation of *The First Year*, a lot of fun for the participants, a big gain in practical knowledge of staging plays, and \$200 toward the tennis courts.

The play itself is admirably suited to amateurs, being a realistic comedy of married life, packed with subtle humor and clever dialogue. The young people made their own scenery and did practically all the publicity work for the play. In fact some of them even set their Big Bens for five o'clock in the morning during the week before the performance that they might get in two hours of theatrical work before their regular jobs began.

An Italian boy, who had had some actual experience in carpenter work, acted as director. A working model was made of the set, which was evolved out of beaver board and shingle laths. This was constructed in sections four feet wide and twelve feet high. The sections were joined in the back by transverse braces and screw hooks and eyes, in order that the same set might be used for both scenes. The joinings were covered in front by lattice painted dark brown to contrast with the buff walls, thus giving a panelled effect. This lattice was also carried around the room at a height of eight feet from the floor. A base board on the front gave additional support and finish to the set. Diagonal braces from the top of the set to "two by eights" about three feet from the back kept the whole thing rigid. Removable sections were fastened to the cross pieces and lattice by screws. Muresco was used rather than paint because it was cheaper and dried more quickly.

It is difficult to tell whether the most worthwhile receipts from the show were the \$200 in cash, the amount of fun the players and audience got out of the production or the fund of practical experience gained by the actors. Anyway Mt. Kisco is practically assured of another tennis court.

*THE original sin is to make a boy sit still.*

## Winter Sports

The growing interest in winter sports is making the program of winter recreation activities an exceedingly popular one in sections of the country where a cold climate prevails. The development of novel forms of activities and of the competitive idea is greatly enriching the program and enlarging its possibilities.

One of the simplest and most natural forms of winter play is that of playing in the snow. Snow-ball fights are an unfailing sort of fun and good exercise, and are entered into with great enthusiasm by both boys and girls. These battles will make a splendid game if certain fixed rules are followed. The players should be divided into sides, with a captain for each side who will really direct the procedure. There should be rules regulating the kind and number of snow-balls and the size of the forts.

Snow-men Contests may be held between playgrounds, the snow-men being judged according to the height, appearance, proper proportions, originality of design and difficulties overcome, such as the accumulation of snow.



A RABBIT MADE OF SNOW

### *Snow Sculpturing*

The time honored snow man idea has recently led to many varied forms of snow sculpturing which have been developed to an unusual degree on the Board of Education Playgrounds in Chicago. In 1923-24 all the playgrounds competed in modelling snow figures and the results

were judged by the city's distinguished sculptor, Lorado Taft. The young snow sculptors were left to their own devices to select subjects and work them out. Pails were procured and partially filled with water in which snow was mixed to form a heavy slush. The work of modelling was done with wooden paddles, the snow first being packed on a framework of sticks tied together. Pieces of tin and heavy pocket knives were used to carve away excess and secure the lines and contour desired. Some of the figures and articles produced included an elephant holding his own against an attack by three wolves, other animals of various kinds, a set of overstuffed furniture with a fireplace, battleships and castles.

In 1924-25 famous paintings proved to be the favorite subjects for reproduction. In this project the snow is banked into a big frame and the figures of the paintings are carved out and tinted with calcimine, the tints being mixed in water and applied to the snow, which quickly takes in the colors. In Bloomfield, New Jersey, it was discovered that the Diamond Dyes used for cotton and wool fabric dyeing can be used with good effect to color the snow.

### *Constructive and Dramatic Snow Play*

Children between the ages of four and six enjoy playing horse and sleigh with reins which have bells on them. Playing reindeer and Santa Claus and building snowmen also appeal to them. Older children may play Eskimo, building snowmen, forts and houses representing villages, dogs and sleds, polar bears and seals.



TOWSER IN SNOW



*On Snow Shoes*

Hare and Hounds is a particularly exciting game when played in snowshoes, and hikes on snowshoes have added charm.

*Coasting*

All children like to coast and increasingly cities are realizing their responsibility for seeing that as far as possible they shall coast in safety. More cities each year are closing streets for coasting during certain hours of the day and are safeguarding the children during these periods.

*Closing Streets for Coasting*

The following suggestions for closed streets have been gathered from the experiences of a number of cities:

The usual procedure is for an ordinance to be passed by the City Council, setting aside specific streets for coasting during certain hours. The streets are chosen by the Recreation Department, Park Board, the Board of Public Works or some similar body. The streets selected are, naturally, those least used for traffic with few intersecting streets. They should be distributed as evenly as possible throughout the city so that children will not have to walk more than a few blocks to a coasting place.

"Street Closed" barriers should be placed at the head and foot of each street with red lanterns upon the blockades at night, indicating that the streets are entirely closed to traffic. During this period cross streets should be barricaded at their intersection with the play streets. The hours during which streets are closed vary, according to local conditions. Some are closed from four to ten, others from three to eleven. They are usually closed all day on Saturday and in some instances on Sunday.

If the closed street crosses the main highway of traffic, a sand belt fifty feet wide should be placed at the bottom of the hill where it meets the main highway to stop the sleds before they reach the highway.

A policeman or man sworn in as special policeman should be in charge of each coasting street, his duties being to put out signs and barricades, take them in when the streets are open to traffic and have general oversight of the streets during coasting hours. This may also be done by Junior Police, Junior Safety Councils, Boy Scouts and similar groups which must, however, have the authority of the police back of them. If there is a trolley intersection a policeman should be

posted at the intersection. (A series of signals may be worked out with car conductors for stopping and starting cars at this point.)

Where certain streets are set aside, coasting should be prohibited by the city authorities in other streets.

It is important that the names and locations of the streets set aside for coasting, the hours they are closed and the rules in force shall be well advertised in the newspapers and parents urged, through the local press and other channels, to send their children to these streets.

*Coasting Carnivals*

In coasting carnivals the rules for closed streets should hold and in addition the following rules may be observed:

1. Small sleds should be given the right of way.
2. Big bob sleds should be given a start of at least 50 feet.
3. Coasters should go down on the right side of the street and back on the other side.
4. If the foot of the coasting hill intersects with a main traffic street, coasters should not be allowed to cross over the sand into the main traffic street.
5. These rules should be printed in the newspapers before the carnival.

At the coasting carnival at Middletown, Connecticut, colored glass tumblers lighted by candles were placed fifteen feet apart on both sides of the slide, giving the effect of dancing colors on the sparkling snow. Nearly 500 tumblers were used.

*Safety Measures in Portland, Maine*

The Recreation Department of Portland has built slides for sleds similar to toboggan slides, except that they are smaller. These slides are installed in vacant lots and other places where there is danger of going out in cross streets. Where travel is heavy a belt of sand is used to slow down the sleds.

## TOBOGGANING

The tremendous speed which may be attained in tobogganning makes it important that every precaution be taken to safeguard the sport. Among the dangers to be avoided in the construction of toboggans and slides are the following:

1. Having the trough too wide—thus making the toboggan lurch from side to side—and possibly jump the tracks.
2. Having out-run level—thereby toboggan

upsetting. It is a good plan to build banks of snow same width as trough or continue sides of chute on out-run.

3. Using poor wood in construction of toboggan, making great danger of slivers.

4. Having sides of trough too low—making it possible for toboggan to jump tracks.

5. Not having trestle work strong and solid—thus causing constant vibrations.

6. Not building entire slide straight. Curves in a toboggan slide give a chance for toboggan to go over sides. This construction is never satisfactory.

7. Having crossbars too far apart, making vibration and strain on the bottom boards.

8. Allowing chute to become worn, causing the toboggan to bump up and down.

#### *Suggestions for Constructing a Toboggan Slide*

A satisfactory slide may be built of planed spruce boards in sections twelve feet long, each length being in the shape of a trough. The inside width of the trough should be twenty-two inches at the lower end and twenty-four inches at the upper. The sides should be twelve inches high with a flare of four inches. Four 4 x 4 crossbars are used to nail the boards together, each crossbar extending four inches beyond the bottom boards, to which is nailed a bracket cut from the same size of wood to hold the sides in place. The crossbar on the upper trough is exactly at the end of the boards; at the lower end it is four inches from the end. This allows the trough to lap four inches into the other. The crossbars should be so placed as to butt tightly against each other. The distance between the crossbars is divided to equalize the strength of the trough. All edges and corners are planed off to prevent splinters, and a sharp look-out must be kept on the edges. The troughs are thoroughly nailed together, but no nailing is done in putting the lengths together. They are simply placed in position on the ground, beginning at the lower end and fitting in each end toward the top, leveling under the crossbars as the ground may require. This chute will be found a very convenient size. The lengths are easily handled and packed away, and they will last for several years. The construction is so simple that it is inexpensive.

In order to have the chute in good running order, the ice in it must be smooth and keen. It is best prepared by filling the chute with snow and beating it down firmly until a layer about two inches thick is formed in the bottom. If the temperature is favorable, this should be sprinkled

until it forms a keen icy surface. After a few days' care and cold weather the condition of the chute will improve. Should holes form in the ice they may be patched with snow sprinkled until it forms a slush and beaten smoothly into the holes.

#### *Rules for Use*

Cities which have constructed toboggan slides are finding it necessary to issue rules for the use of the slides. Manchester, New Hampshire, which has two slides with three runways each, built at a cost of about \$2,400, uses the following rules and regulations:

1. Weather permitting, this slide will be open daily afternoon and evening until 10:30.

2. No person under 16 years of age will be allowed to use this slide unless accompanied by his parent.

3. No person will be allowed between the electric light posts.

4. Only those who slide will be allowed on the platform.

5. No one but the attendant will be allowed to start any toboggan.

6. Only two persons will be allowed on a six foot toboggan; four on an eight foot and only six on any larger size toboggan.

#### *Rentals*

A limited number of 6 and 8 foot toboggans will be for rental as follows:

1. 50c per hour or \$1.00 per afternoon or evening.

2. A deposit of \$2.00 for an afternoon or evening, or \$5.00 for all day will be required in all cases.

Clothing, bundles and other articles may be checked at the coat room for 10c.

Private toboggans may be checked at the buildings for 75c per week.

#### *SAMPLE TOBOGGAN COUPON*

No. 1247	Manchester, N. H. .... 1923	No. 1247
I HAVE THIS DAY received of the		TOBOGGAN COUPON
Playground Commission One Toboggan		
Number ..... in good condition which		Upon return of this coupon the deposit will be refunded.
I agree to use carefully and return in		
the same condition on the same day.		
Name .....		
Residence .....		
A deposit of \$.....received		
Rented at.....o'clock		
Returned at.....		

#### *SKATING*

Many cities are trying to eliminate the dangers connected with skating on rivers and ponds by

providing for the flooding of park areas, playgrounds or vacant lots.

The method of constructing skating rinks suggested here is submitted by J. R. Batchelor of the Playground and Recreation Association of America, who as former Superintendent of Recreation in Duluth, had long experience in promoting winter sports.

#### *The Ground and Surface*

The ground is naturally the first consideration. The surface should be level, or as level as possible, for the more the ground slopes, the longer it will take to flood the area. It is as easy to make a large rink as a small one. Sometimes, however, by cutting off a foot or two a slope may be avoided at the edge. The best surface is of clay, but on most playgrounds there is a surface of gravel over clay or some other foundation, and this is not hard to freeze. Sand is the most difficult surface to freeze as the water invariably soaks through before it freezes.

#### *Banks*

The making of the bank is usually the process which causes the most trouble. The best bank is one which has been plowed up and tamped before freezing weather comes. One furrow should be plowed around the rink and the dirt packed down with a spade or tamper to make it sufficiently solid or prevent air holes through the bank. If work is not started in time to do this plowing, a board bank may be constructed of two-inch planks, ten or twelve feet long, laid on edge after the loose surface has been scraped to enable the plank to rest on a solid foundation. The planks are laid end to end around the rink; 2 x 4 stakes about three feet long are driven into the ground to the depth of a foot at each intersection and nailed to the planks. This prevents any moving of the planks after they are laid. The dirt scraped from under them should be tamped around the planks at the bottom.

If a heavy snow storm should come before these steps are taken it may be necessary to make a snow bank. The farther north the location, the easier it is to make a bank, but at the best these banks are not very satisfactory, and more time will be consumed in their making as the snow must be entirely frozen through before any attempt can be made to flood the surface of the rink.

#### *The Sprinkling and Freezing Process*

After these steps have been completed, the rink is ready for freezing. This process will take a great deal of time, and it must not be hurried. People very often make the mistake of forgetting that water put on a bank or rink is much warmer than the ice formed by a previous flooding. Rinks should not be flooded except in extremely cold weather when an attempt may be made to bring the surface up to level after it has been thoroughly prepared. The best way to do this is to use a regular garden hose without a nozzle spray, spraying the bank particularly at its base. This must be done night after night until the possibility of leakage is past.

The surface should be frozen in the same manner as the bank—that is, by starting the sprinkling at the far end and working toward the water supply. This process should be repeated until the ice is from two to four inches thick. If the water then shows no sign of leaking through the bank, an inner tube may be put on on an especially cold night. The best method for this is to use a two-inch hose or one of approximately that size, letting it run at the farthest end of the rink and drawing it toward the base of supply as the water comes to you. A good hose to use is the Mill hose, rubber inside and out, with regular hose coupling. It is well to have the connection through a building with a valve on the inside. If the rink is too large to flood in this way, a special line of pipe may be laid along the edge of the rink below the freezing line with two or three flooding valves coming to the surface in a box about four feet square, the shut-off cock being down in the ground. This should be well protected from freezing by manure.

#### *The Shelter House*

Where the weather is very cold it will be necessary to have a warming house. The knock-down type is very convenient and can be removed at the end of the season. It should be large enough to accommodate the attendance but not so large as to encourage loafing. A house about twenty-four feet long and twenty feet wide makes a good size. A round oak stove in the center which will burn either hard or soft coal makes a satisfactory heating plant.

The presence of a warming house makes supervision necessary. The workers selected to help clean the rink should be able to care for this supervision.



### *The Care of the Rink*

If the rink is constantly used almost as much ice will be shaved off during the day as was put on the preceding night. This ice must be scraped off before the rink is used and the process should be repeated several times during the day. The best scraper consists of sheet iron about four feet long and three feet wide and is made like a dust pan on runners, the edge being about eighteen inches high at the back. The runners come from about six inches from the front of the scraper underneath along the bottom to the back and up the outside of the back. This forms the handle which is much like the handle of a wide baby carriage. Two men or boys can push it at once. It is not necessary to sweep the rink as the water will absorb what is left. Where there are holes or cracks, a little hot water may be poured into them. The sprinkling of the rink should be done at the coldest time of the day. A good schedule of hours of use is from 12 o'clock at noon to 6, and from 6 to 10 p. m., when the final scraping is done, the water sprinkled on and left to freeze all night.

### *Lighting*

A number of methods of lighting are used. Many people prefer the flood lights placed where they will cover the surface. Five hundred watt lamps are used for this, as many as are needed for the size of the rink. Good lighting effects have been secured with a cable strung at intervals of fifty feet across the rink with a string of incandescent lights fastened to it.

### *Equipment for Games*

In running races on a rink, boxes or barrels are placed in each corner and a flag tacked above each. The laps are determined by measuring fifteen feet out from the boxes; the distance around is fixed by measuring around the rink fifteen feet from the boxes. In conducting a race, judges should be placed at each corner to see that the boxes are not touched.

For hockey a bank of four feet high should be erected around the playing surface. Wherever possible, it is well to have a separate rink where hockey will be played exclusively, with banks frozen into the ice.

### *Skating Games, Feature Events and Ice Sports*

As soon as children and adults can skate, they will enjoy playing easy games such as Tag, Crack

the Whip, impromptu races and relays, and shinny. More advanced skaters can enter racing contests and will enjoy playing hockey, baseball, volley ball and basketball.

### *Feature Skating Events*

Feature skating events are always popular. These include feature races—hoops, wheelbarrow, potato, obstacle, and jumping over two barrels with running start.

Men and women together—skating in pairs, judged for speed and form, or fancy skating; Waltzing if there is a band; girls' and men's relay race in which man skates backward one lap, hands a flag to girl who skates forward one lap to finish; snow shovel race in which man drags girl one-half the distance, girl drags man one-half distance to the finish; necktie race in which girl helps man put on necktie. He skates to a certain point and back again and girl helps him off with the tie.

### *Ice Shuffle-Board*

Ice shuffle-board is an excellent winter sport, something like curling, but having some advantages over that game. It requires neither expensive equipment nor the strength necessary to wield heavy weights and may be played by women as well as men. Further, it is a very simple game to play. On a smooth piece of ice five circles are marked out, having a common center, the innermost circle having a radius of 6 inches, and each outer one a radius of 6 inches larger than that of the circle next nearest the center. The spaces between the lines are numbered from one to five; the highest number being at the center. From a line twenty-five feet away round disks are propelled by long cues toward this target. The cues are similar to those used in pool, but pointed sticks may be used for the purpose. Disks may be easily purchased or made of wood. The object of the game is for each side to shoot its disks as near the center of the circles as possible and to knock its opponent's disks away. The game is generally played by four people, two on each side, and there are twelve disks giving each player three shots. When all the disks have been played, each side is credited with the number of points indicated by the spaces in which the disks lie. Additional rules in scoring may be adopted; for example, one of the spaces between circles may be marked "five off." This will add interest, for each side must try to avoid that space and force its opponents into it.

*Skate Sailing, Ice Yachting and Ice Motoring*

These sports are most exciting and help to satisfy the popular demand for speed, but can be enjoyed only where there is a big body of water to freeze, such as a river, bay or lake. There is this advantage in this type of sport that while the equipment is very expensive to buy, the most successful boat or sail is very often made by amateurs and because of this fact more people are able to indulge in these sports.

Skate sailing is the least expensive of the three and one need not be an exceptionally expert skater to enjoy it. The sail is made of duck or unbleached sheeting with a bamboo frame and varies in size and shape according to the locality in which it is used. It may be made for use of one person only or for several, and is controlled by means of ropes attached to the sail and the frame on the same principle as a sail boat. It is much less dangerous to carry your sail than to have it fastened to your person and it is much easier to "come about so."

*Suggestions for Safe Skating*

Where flooded park areas and vacant lots are available it is better to skate on them, as they are safer than the river.

It is inadvisable to skate on ice less than four inches thick except on an artificial skating rink. Salt water ice is always treacherous. No skating should be attempted when spring melting sets in.

It is suggested that skaters on a river or pond locate loose fence rails, a ladder, plank or a boat hauled out for the winter and a rope. They may be useful in case of accident.

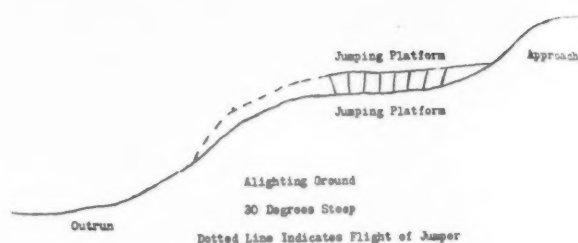
If a skater should fall in, it is important to remember that the rescuer's weight should be evenly distributed—hence the use of planks. A hockey stick fastened to a life line may be thrown out to a person in the water. A life line around the rescuer may be paid out by others on the shore.

First aid for frost bite should be applied to the rescued person. If the patient is unable to breathe, artificial breathing should be started by the prone and pressure method.

## SKIING

The following suggestions for the construction of an amateur ski jump are offered by Fred H. Harris, organizer of the Dartmouth Outing Club:

1. Approach
2. Take-off
3. Alighting ground
4. Out-run



Select a hill or slope which faces other than south. North or northeast is an ideal slope.

Approach should give all speed necessary. Take-off should be level or sloping slightly down hill, and angle from approach to it should be gradual. Alighting ground should be 30 degrees steep. Measure this accurately as it is important in making successful jumps and safe ones. Take-off can be made of piles of boughs covered with snow, or entirely of snow or of planks covered with snow. Take-off should be located back from edge of steep slope.

Important! Jumper should NEVER land from take-off on LEVEL ground. Jumper must land on the steep slope for safety.

The alighting ground at the foot of the hill should gradually grow less steep until it merges into a safe level out-run where jumper can swing or stop.

If jumps of 50 feet are to be made the take-off should be from three to four feet high. The alighting ground should be about 100 feet long for a 50 foot jump. The alighting ground should have the snow packed moderately compactly.

*A Program of Events*

A program of events for a skiing contest may include the following:

Hundred yard dash, ski or snow shoes

Two hundred and twenty yard dash, ski or snow shoes

Four miles cross-country run, ski or snow shoes.

Obstacle race, ski or snow shoes

Relay race, ski or snow shoes

Ski proficiency contest:

(a) Telemark Swing to right and left, Christiana Swing (to right and left))

(b) Letter S turns, turning first in one direction and then in the other

(c) Keeping within course marked by flags

(d) Snow ploughing

Ski jumping contest:

(a) For form and distance

(b) For distance only. See rules governing ski jumping

## WINTER FESTIVALS AND CARNIVALS

Skating, ice games and all the other activities mentioned may be combined into a winter festival or carnival which will be the culmination of a season of winter sports.

*Lighting*

Lights and colors play an important part in giving an atmosphere of festivity to a festival or carnival. The following device, known as the Light of a Thousand Candles, represents a novel method of lighting:

Stain a number of jelly tumblers with different colors and place candles inside. Make a bank of snow around the ice rink, along the ski run, down a coasting hill or street and spray snow with water on a cold day or night. Just before the snow freezes into glare ice, insert the tumblers and let the ice stiffen around them. Then light the candles and the illumination from the glossy surface will reveal a myriad of wonderful colors, turning the surroundings into a fairyland.

*Events for a One Day Festival*

Two or three events may be run at the same time in order to include all the typical sports. The following program is suggested which may be adapted to suit the hours at which adults can conveniently come.

*First Period:* (a) Game—Junior hockey, two twelve minute periods for boys from twelve to fifteen years of age; (b) one-half mile skating race for girls from eleven to fourteen years.

*Second Period:* (a) Game—Senior hockey, two twelve minute periods for boys from sixteen to twenty; (b) one-half mile skating race for girls fourteen years old and over.

*Third Period:* (a) Game—Ice shuffle-board for adult women (not on skates); (b) one-quarter mile skating race for children from seven to ten years.

*Fourth Period:* (a) Game—Snow battle with fixed rules, two ten minute halves for adult men; (b) skating race one-half mile, thirteen to fifteen; (c) broad jump on skates with running start, best out of three trials—for men.

*Fifth Period:* (a) Snow men (or Eskimo village) test for boys and girls under fourteen; (b) one mile championship skating race for boys and girls sixteen years and over.

*Sixth Period:* (a) Game—Breaking the duck's neck for boys twelve to fifteen years; (b) ob-

stacle race for men—jumping over a barrel; (c) skating relay—man skates backward one lap, hands a flag to girl who skates forward one lap to finish.

*Seventh Period:* (a) Fancy skating, singles for men; (b) for women.

*Eighth Period:* (a) Skating in pairs, judging for speed and form; (b) fancy skating in pairs for men and women.

When more than one event is run at a time arrangements must be made for additional starters and judges.

*Events for an Evening Skating Carnival*

An evening program involves an expenditure for lighting, and a band. Where a winter festival has become a natural community event business men will frequently contribute funds and provisions.

Lighting may in part be furnished by huge bonfires around the skating space. Various groups may bring the material for these bonfires and build and tend them under the general supervision of a playground worker. For any large public entertainment special police must be assigned.

The events for an evening program should be limited to adults. A proposed order of events follows:

A parade of skaters in costume, each carrying a lighted lantern, swing around the skating space. Leaders wind them in and out of intricate figures. At a fete held recently in a Michigan city only masked skaters were allowed on the rink for an hour.

A three hundred yard dash for men; a race around the skating space for women

Skating in pairs judging for form and speed.  
Fancy skating in singles for (a) men; (b) women

Fancy skating in pairs; waltzing.  
Skating open to all

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**New York's Winter Sports Carnival.**—Last year, for the first time, the winter sports carnival in New York was held in conjunction with the Metropolitan outdoor skating championships under the auspices of the Bureau of Recreation of the Department of Parks. Central Park was the scene of action; January 25th the date.

So many entries were received that it was neces-



sary to hold all elimination and trial heats in the morning and the semi-final and final races in the afternoon. The carnival proper took place in the afternoon.

Among the events were exhibitions of speed skating, fancy skating, pair skating, waltzing, barrel jumping, by every leading skater in the Metropolitan district. There were events for the many thousands of children who attend the park playgrounds, and for novices.

The program was as follows:

220-yard Dash—Men and women

440-yard Dash—Men and women

880-yard Dash—Men

1-mile Race—Men

2-mile Race—Men

Juveniles—220-yard Dash—Boys and girls, 12-14 years

Juniors—220-yard Dash—Boys and girls, 14-16 years

Juniors—440-yard Dash—Boys and girls, 14-16 years

Intermediates—880-yard Dash—Boys and girls, 16-18 years

Novice—440-yard Dash—Women

Novice—880-yard Dash—Men

Gold, silver and bronze medals were given for each event.

## In Spite of the Drought

(Continued from page 497)

which K. S. Ickes is Superintendent, cleaned the debris out of the hole. There happened to be at this location an artesian well and some plumbers volunteered to connect the swimming pool to the well.

Waco now has, at the very heart of the city, a swimming pool free to the children of the community. The police matron takes charge of the girls' swimming periods while officials from the Working Boys' Club look after the boys' periods.

In the evolution of human industrial achievements our success has been so great as to inject a new problem in our social affairs. While sixteen hours a day fifty years ago was scarcely adequate to produce the necessities of life, though the requirements of those days were meager compared with today's extravagant demands, still eight hours today threatens the production of more than our distributive schemes will require. This difference of time is our problem, the added leisure is already hazarding our morals. The sociologist may have his answer, the moralist his: We who are lovers of flowers should add our contribution.—*Dr. W. E. Upjohn.*



SCOOTER RACE, PARIS, FRANCE

# Christmas Plays for Young People

PLAYS FOR CHILDREN 10 TO 14 YEARS OF AGE—  
MIXED CAST

(One or two older characters are necessary in many of the plays.)

*The Puppet Princess* or *The Heart That Squeaked* by Augusta Stevenson. Thirteen speaking parts and several extras. The scene is laid in the hall of the palace on Christmas Eve long ago. Hans and Gretel bring their puppets to show to the King and Queen and little Prince. The King is so entranced with the dance of the puppet princess that he insists on buying her. Little Gretel cannot bear to give her up and when she is alone for a moment, she changes her to a live princess. Unfortunately, Gretel forgets to change her heart, so the princess is terribly handicapped by a wooden heart which squeaks and squeaks when she dances for the court. Through her acts of kindness and the help of jolly Dr. Goblin, a real heart is given to her, and joy and Christmas spirit pervade the palace, when Santa and his attendants come to distribute the gifts. Published by Houghton, Mifflin Co., obtained from the Drama Bookshop, 29 West 47th Street, New York, price 50c, postage 5c.

*On Christmas Eve* by Constance D. Mackay. A play in one act. Eleven characters. The little girl, a lonely child, is sitting by the hearth on Christmas Eve., waiting for her mother to come from work. She is tremendously surprised by a visit from "Wendy," who comes flying into the room on her famous broomstick. Wendy plans a splendid party for the little girl. It is attended by Robinson Crusoe, the Snow Queen, the Bagdad Traveler and ever so many other famous characters. She forgets her loneliness and enjoys the best party ever given to a little girl.

*The Christmas Guest* by Constance D. Mackay. Seven characters. Six young people are gathered around the hearth in the hall of a Sixteenth Century house. They have listened to the story of the Christmas Angel, who visits one house each year and are planning the gifts they will give to her if she by chance comes to their door. A knock is heard and an old beggar woman enters. The children are so sorry for her that they give her all their gifts and suddenly realize that they have nothing left to offer the angel should she come. Then they see a great light and know that the Christmas Angel has been with them after all. Both plays are contained in "The House

of the Heart" by Constance Mackay, published by Henry Holt & Co. Obtained from the Drama Bookshop, 29 West 47th Street, New York, \$1.25, postage 10c.

*Santa Claus Gets His Wish* by Blanche Proctor Fisher. A simple little play adapted to children from 8 to 12 years of age. Eight characters which include two imps, Santa Claus, Sand Man, Wish Bone, Lollypop and Ice Cream Cone. Santa Claus is sure that every child is dreaming of him the night before Christmas. He is put to sleep by the imps with sand stolen from the sandman, and learns that the children are really dreaming of lollypops and ice cream cones. Very bright and easy to produce. An addition to any Christmas program. Walter Baker & Co., 5 Hamilton Place, Boston, Mass., price 25c.

*The Holly Wreath* by Emilie Blackmore Stapp and Eleanor Cameron. About twenty characters, more if desired. Simple woodland setting, one act. Two little girls go out to the woods in search of holly hoping with the bright green to bring a bit of cheer to their poor home. They do not find the holly, but through the magic power of love, Christmas is brought to them in a most beautiful manner. Walter Baker & Co., Hamilton Place, Boston, Mass., price 30c.

*The House Gnomes*, by John Farrar. Eight children and a father and mother. A play written around a Christmas tree. The staid old dust pan, broom, doormat, scissors, etc., come to life in a most fascinating manner. This is included in "The Magic Sea Shell," which also contains six other children's plays. Published by George H. Doran Co., obtained from the Drama Bookshop, 29 West 47th Street, New York, price \$1.50, 10c postage.

*Jolly Plays for Holiday*, a collection of Christmas plays for children By C. Wells. Contents: "The Day Before Christmas," 9 males, 8 females. "A Substitute for Santa Claus," 5 males, 2 females. "Is Santa Claus a Fraud?" 17 males, 9 females and chorus. "The Greatest Day of the Year," 7 males, 19 females. "Christmas Gifts of All Nations, 3 males, 3 females and chorus. "The Greatest Gift," 10 males, 11 females. Ample suggestions for costuming and other details of stage production are given. These plays are especially adapted to small schools where the producing facilities are limited. Walter Baker & Co., Hamilton Pl., Boston, Mass., price 75c.

## SUITABLE FOR JUNIOR GROUPS

*Chrissy in Christmas Land* by Carolyn Wells. 18 characters. A simple and charming play telling in verse of how Chrissy overcame a selfish notion about Christmas. Walter H. Baker, 41 Winter St., Boston, Mass., 25c.

*The Christmas Jest*, from *A Child's Book of Holiday Plays* by Frances Gillespy Wickes. This play can be given by twelve or fifteen boys or girls and is arranged so they can be used interchangeably. It has three scenes, but any difficulty arising in changing these scenes can be met by staging the play against a background of curtains or by using screens. It plays half an hour. The costumes are elaborate and picturesque. The time is mediaeval. Several ancient Christmas customs are introduced. This book also contains several other excellent plays. Macmillan Co., 66 Fifth Ave., City, price 80c.

*Christmas Tree Bluebird, The*, by Mary S. Edgar. Maeterlinck's "Bluebird" is the basis of this play. The Story-Girl tells the story of it to a group of girls who adventure forth and find their Christmas happiness in bringing the "Bluebird" to some poor children. Simple to produce. Does not require long preparation. 9 girls, 3 children, 5 brownies. Three scenes for which one setting might be used with slight alterations. Woman's Press, 600 Lexington Avenue, New York, price 50c.

*Mother Goose's Christmas Visit* by Edith T. Langley. This is a Christmas play with a few songs introduced. The words and music of these songs are included with the play. The characters are the familiar Mother Goose characters. There are five boys and seven girls. The costumes are simple. The play lasts twenty minutes. Samuel French, 25 West 45th Street, New York, price 30c.

*Trouble in Santa Claus' Land* by O. W. Gleason. A fantastic play with healthy fun and sentiment, a good frolic for school or Sunday school, Walter Baker, 41 Winter Street, Boston, Mass., price 25c.

## ADAPTABLE FOR HIGH SCHOOL GROUPS

*Fiat Lux*, a modern mystery in one act by Faith Van Valkenburgh Vilas. Three men and one woman. One interior setting. Azariah, the unbeliever, regains his faith on Christmas Eve by a miracle that shows him the purpose of suffering and the lesson that comes from facing death bravely. Christmas carols introduced. Samuel

French, 25 West 45th Street, New York City, price 35c.

*Why the Chimes Rang* by Elizabeth McFadden. 4 men, 3 women, speaking parts and several extras. Cast should include about twenty. A mediaeval Christmas play in two scenes. Tells the story of how a humble hearted gift outweighed all the rich gifts at Christmas time. Samuel French, 25 West 45th Street, New York City, price 35c. (Royalty where no admission is charged \$5.00. Where admission is charged \$10.00 for each performance.)

Suggestions for Christmas entertainments such as Recitations, Pantomimes, Drills and Short Drama may be found in the following books:

"Christmas Celebrations"—Edgar S. Werner & Co., 11 E. 14th Street, City, price 60c paper, \$1.00 cloth.

"Christmas Entertainments"—Walter H. Baker, price 35c.

"Holiday Entertainments," Penn Publishing Co., Philadelphia, Pa., price 40c paper, 75c cloth.

## COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PAGEANTS AND FESTIVALS

*Christmasse in Merrie England* by Mari Ruef Hofer. A practical and charming Christmas celebration introducing old English customs and songs and a short masque in rhyme. From 30 to 80 young people may take part. Elizabethan costumes. Published by Clayton F. Summy Co., 429 S. Wabash Avenue, Chicago, Ill., price 25c.

*A Young People's Community Christmas* by Constance D. Mackay. A delightful entertainment including Frost Fairies, Holly Berries, Snow Flakes, Evergreen Elves, etc. Arranged for young people and children only and is designed so that the children of all faiths may take part. Christmas songs are used throughout and the costumes are exceedingly simple. Both of the above mentioned productions are included in Miss Mackay's book "Patriotic Drama in Your Town" published by Henry Holt & Co., obtained from Drama Bookshop, 29 West 47th Street, New York City, price \$1.35, postage 10c.

Play space for children is pay space, according to Dr. Herman N. Bundesen, health commissioner of Chicago. We are coming to be flat dwellers, cooped in so many rooms at so much per. Every available vacant lot, the normal paradise of the youngsters, is sacrificed to building and more building. Play space is necessary to the physical development of the young.



## Paterson Celebrates Christmas

The history of the development of the Community Christmas Tree Celebrations in Paterson, New Jersey, shows a growing community participation throughout the years.

The first community Christmas committee was formed in December, 1913, when a group of interested citizens met in the office of the mayor. In December, 1915, a provision for permanent organization was made by the following resolution:

Resolved, That in order to provide for permanency of organization, the Community Christmas Tree Committee shall consist hereafter of the following:

- (1) The Mayor of Paterson and the City Superintendent of Recreation,
- (2) The president and secretary of the Chamber of Commerce,
- (3) Six business men to be appointed yearly by the Mayor,
- (4) A clerical representative from each church body having three or more congregations; these to be selected by the said church bodies; also a clerical representative-at-large to be appointed by the President of the Paterson Ministerial Association, to represent church bodies having less than three congregations.

- (5) A women's group, similar to the business men's group to be appointed yearly by the Mayor.

In December, 1924, the following action was taken:

*Resolved*, (1) That the expenses of the tree be met by voluntary subscription,

- (2) That the Tenth Community Christmas Tree be set up near the City Hall and that the tree be lighted with electric lights, with a star at the top,

- (3) That the lighting of the tree take place on Wednesday, December 24th, at 4:30 P. M., followed by a brief program, and that the tree continue lighted on Christmas Eve until midnight and every night thereafter from 5 p. m. until 11 p. m., closing on New Year's night at midnight.

- (4) That the following sub-committees be appointed by the chairman:

1. On Tree—to have charge of erecting, lighting and decorating the tree.
2. On Program—to have charge of program, printing, speakers, music at the tree and publicity.
3. On Caroling—to have charge of singing and

caroling in various parts of the city in cooperation with other agencies.

4. On Finance—to have charge of all bills, expenses and subscriptions.

## Snowball Contest

By

H. P. BLAIR

*Schenley High School, Pittsburgh*

During the winter while the classes were out on hikes it was difficult to curb the desire to throw snowballs. Rather than to allow the boys to throw promiscuously, we devised various snowball contests. Care was taken not to choose a time when the snow was too wet. One of the most popular contests was throwing at moving targets, the targets being boys.

A street was selected where there was no traffic. The class formed in a front line of ranks of threes (or fours) along the sidewalk, facing the street. The members of each rank were numbered from one to three (or four). Each boy was permitted to mold one snowball, which he placed in front of him at his feet. When all were prepared, the instructor would shout any member from one to four. If he called number two, all number twos would run to the opposite side of the street with their heads down. The remaining members of the ranks would then pick up their ammunition and attempt to hit number twos. The number of hits made were recorded. After each number group had been led out an equal number of times the total number of hits against each group was taken. The group having the fewest hits recorded was pronounced the winner. —(From *Mind and Body*, November, 1925.)

**Civic Music Association.**—The Twelfth Annual Report of the Chicago Music Association tells a most interesting story of the development of a many-sided program taking the form of children's choruses, reaching their climax in an annual festival of free artists' concerts held in a number of the field houses of the city; of community singing on the municipal pier, and of a civic orchestra giving concerts in school auditoriums and at Orchestra Hall.

These and many other activities of the Association, which are developing an appreciation of music and an opportunity for participation, are reaching thousands of people.

# Report of the Recreation Committee of the American Institute of Park Executives

A year ago the Recreation Committee of the American Institute of Park Executives, of which C. E. Brewer, Recreation Commissioner of Detroit, is Chairman, made the effective area of the playground the subject of its study. This year, municipal athletics as one of the greatest problems facing the recreation superintendents was given to the attention of the committee.

"There is no more important department of our work than this municipal athletic program," states the report. "It has in its foundation the solution for many problems having to do with character development. Of two of these great problems facing the country today, the first is that of scoffing at law. On every hand we find the newspapers full of the conditions which are prevalent in cities today. Law is held very lightly and the problem is so serious that time and thought must be given to it. The very foundation of obedience to law has its beginning in the obedience to rules. The first work of the program of municipal athletics is to give training to boys and girls and the young people in obedience to rules. Most of the violators of any known law are men who do not recognize the rules of the game and as long as we can bring a very general training and education in obedience, we are going to increase obedience to law.

"The second great problem facing our nation is the question of organizations. America is organized to death with all sorts of organizations which have as their unconscious aim the dividing of the community into groups and cliques. In one city alone there are seventeen different national dinner clubs meeting. We are divided into associations in this country in religion, in politics and in all forms of civic life. The need today is not for more organizations, to separate the community, but for an organization which will bring the community into action as a unit. This again has its very foundation in team play, in loyalty to the team and in unselfishness and all these characteristic athletics promote.

"At the present time there are various national associations attempting to set up definitions of conduct for athletes the country over. In actual practice a great percentage of athletes are dis-

obeying the rules which have been established. The committee, in an effort to find out from the athletes themselves their opinion as to the value of the present rules on amateur standing, sent a secret ballot to a few cities to be distributed among the athletes, asking them for an honest opinion as well as for an honest statement of their athletic history. The results were interesting.

"Of 3,000 ballots, there were 1,167 violations of the amateur standing. The most flagrant violations were in baseball—340, basket ball—225, and football—183. In every case the supposed amateur played as an amateur after he had professionalized himself. The ages of the violators were between 16 and 23. The greatest violations were for money consideration. Skating, tennis and soccer seemed to be the cleanest. When asked whether the athlete would be in favor of a rule which would permit him to be a professional in one branch of sport, but be an amateur in all others, the answer was 184 'yes' and 39 'no.' When asked whether the present amateur rules had prevented professionalism, the vote was 60 'yes' to 157 'no.' When asked whether the rule would result in a more honest statement of amateur standing, the answers were 192 'yes' and 26 'no.' From these results it was very evident that the athletes themselves were not satisfied with the present amateur ratings and the rules governing them. It seems to the committee about time that these national bodies get together and make an attempt to secure a more honest conducting of athletics.

"The big question which faces the municipal departments, of course, is the fact that securing money from tax funds, we cannot rule out any athlete from participating in our program except when such rules as we shall make divide the sport into ages and other groups. It is therefore necessary that we provide for the whole citizenry, which includes the professional as well as the amateur, and that as far as our municipal systems are concerned they should be permitted to carry on our program in a city-wide way without the national association attempting to punish either the professional or the amateur for so doing. Having the advantage of trained leadership, we

feel that we can be relied upon to see to it that no damage comes to the amateur athlete in his competition against the professional."

## Christy Matthewson

Crowds, radio fans and the boys have sucked the honey from another great baseball series. During these days we have all injected curves and lusty smashes into our vista of world news, showing thus how firm a nucleus for our thoughts and emotions is afforded by the national game. And yet there came also the sudden, saddening report that one of the supreme gentlemen of sport had died, leaving to the world a fine memory and at least a momentary heartache. Christy Matthewson was, of course, a wonderful pitcher—no other man probably has ever brought a President of the United States half way across the continent to a seat at a crucial game; and certainly no other pitcher ever loomed so majestically in young minds, quite overshadowing George Washington and his cherry tree or even that transcendent model of boyhood, Frank Merriwell. Yet "Big Six" was very much more than an illustration of diamond craft.

With straightforward, manly character he entered the lists of sport a gentleman, and came out a deserving hero. There was about him no flash, no scandal, no cheap clamor for notoriety. One had a securely comfortable feeling that Matthewson would not betray the trust of his position and uncover flaws over which the cheap journals could grin and sentimentalize. During the years following his war experience, when it became more and more evident that gas had weakened his constitution beyond recovery, there was no attempt to capitalize upon his record, but merely a simple resignation to the circumstances and a brave battle with death. Such men have a very real value above and beyond the achievements of brawn and sporting skill. They realize and typify, in a fashion, the ideal of sport—clean power in the hands of a clean and vigorous personality, a courage that has been earned in combat, and a sense of honor which metes out justice to opponents and spurns those victories that have not been earned.—Editorial from *The Commonwealth*, October 21, 1925.

Fifty-four baseball teams used the playgrounds of Springfield, Illinois, during the summer of 1925, the first season after the establishment of a year-round recreation system in this city.

## Twenty-Five Years Old

On October 5th-9th the Philadelphia Public Schools celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of the establishment of organized athletics in the schools.

The occasion was celebrated not only by the opening of the Leagues but by a city-wide Color Contest during the week in elementary and junior high schools. All regular physical education periods as well as all organized play periods before or after school and at recess were devoted entirely to organized games and athletic contests. The city colors (blue and gold) were substituted for the school colors and for each game contested the winning color was credited with one point.

In order to count in the score, a game had to be of at least ten minutes' duration. The scores were totaled daily and announced to the school each morning during the week. A school score of Blue 38, Gold 23 indicated that 61 games had been played on a specific day in a school. Mimeographed sheets were issued for recording the score and on the final day, October 10th, the score for the week was announced.

The following table of elementary school Field Day records gives team averages for 1910 and 1925 and shows the improvement made in these events during a fifteen year period:

<i>Standing Broad Jump</i>	<i>Ball Throw (Overhead)</i>	<i>100 Yard Dash</i>
Sr. Boys 1910—6.4 ft.	29 ft.	13.8 sec.
1925—8.16 "	46 "	12.2 "
Jr. Boys 1910—5.95 "	23 "	14.8 "
1925—7.36 "	39 "	13.3 "
Sr. Girls 1910—5.5 "	24 "	16.2 "
1925—7.11 "	38 "	14.2 "
Jr. Girls 1910—5.75 "	16 "	16.5 "
1925—6.48 "	34 "	14.5 "

**Books for Children.**—Macmillan Company announces the appearance of four books for children, published in England, each containing many attractive illustrations. In *Tales of Long Ago*, Dick Whittington, King Alfred, Gulliver and many other well known and beloved characters are introduced to the children. *Tales of Far-Away* is full of facts told most interestingly of life in different countries. *Tales from Animal Land* make fascinating reading for the boy and girl with special pets, while *Tales of the Countryside* are full of interest to both boys and girls. Price of each book is 50 cents.



## Sandow the Strong Man

The death of Eugene Sandow at the comparatively early age of 58 is not necessarily to be put to the discredit of the system of physical training which his fame as the strongest man in the world made rather fashionable. Even if in his own case death, ascribed to the bursting of a blood vessel in the brain, was the result of excessive exertion, it does not follow that disciples who followed his system without trying to duplicate his feats were incurring any serious risk. Even in his case it is hard to strike a balance, since he was frail and sickly in youth, and the exercises which he carried too far were originally undertaken to restore his health and may have had that effect.

None the less the drift of physical education has been away from the ideal set by this strong man and his predecessors in the same field. For the maintenance of health to an advanced age medical science is inclined to recommend only what may be called normal strength, the strength that goes with a wholesome life, with due attention to games and athletics, but which is not the product of systematic and prolonged efforts to build up huge muscles. Admiration for strength is so general that it is not surprising that revivals of physical culture after long neglect are apt to overstress this feature. It was so with the Turnverein movement promoted by the German patriot, Jahn, in the Napoleonic era, and to some extent it was so with the beginnings of physical culture in this country after the Civil War.

Such beginnings naturally put great emphasis on the gymnasium and its ingenious apparatus for quickly strengthening neglected muscles so that in a few weeks or months the beginner who is patient of routine can perform surprising feats. The gymnasium has even increased in importance since then, but it is made to serve the needs of a more rational ideal of training, and the admiration which the amazing exploits of champions like Sandow used to evoke has declined as the younger generation took great golfers and tennis players as their exemplars. It is a familiar fact that excessive strength, the strength, that is, which is due to the building of an abnormal muscular tissue, is apt to be a real handicap in most of the fields of physical competition. When the "strong man" has shown how much he can lift and has emulated Samson in manhandling a lion, he has about come to the end of his box of tricks. Bending coins with the fingers and twisting horseshoes with the hands are good parlor tricks, but as com-

pared with a dazzling backhand return at tennis or par golf, they leave the younger generation cold.

It is just as well. The natural physical strength which comes from heredity, good nutrition and reasonable bodily activity is an enviable gift, and those who are for any reason deficient do well to try to bring themselves up to a reasonable standard and to keep it. For the rest displays of phenomenal strength may well be left to Nature's strong men, like Jack London's hero in *Burning Daylight*, and to an occasional professional strong man like Sandow. Full credit may be given for what he made of himself without holding him up as an example of general imitation.—(From the *Springfield Union*, October 15, 1925.)

## A Swimming Pool

The section of Pennsylvania in which the town of Tamaqua is located has practically no streams of water which are not polluted by the wash from the mines. Swimming is, therefore, out of the question and Tamaqua was without a swimming hole until the American Legion had a vision of the possibilities which lay in a tiny mountain stream flowing down a narrow valley at one edge of the town, widening into a small pool a few feet in diameter. This little stream, having its source in a mountain spring, is pure, and by the time it reaches the end of the valley is fairly warm.

The American Legion saw in this pool and the surrounding area the beginning of a real play center for the town. Having little money to invest they called on volunteers. With the expenditure of a few hundred dollars and a maximum amount of volunteer effort the basin of the pool was greatly enlarged and a cement dam built. The School Board donated some playground equipment, a brick oven and tables for picnickers were installed, toilet facilities added, tents supplied for temporary dressing rooms and the result has been the most popular spot in Tamaqua. Nearly all of the materials used in the erection of the equipment including the seats scattered about the ground, were donated by business houses or individuals of the town. The average attendance is at least 350 a day and on Sundays 500 people come to the pool. Mute testimony of what this spot has meant to the citizens of Tamaqua during the past summer is evidenced by the paths which have been worn down the hills and up the valley from every side.

# Mother Nature's Invitation

Professor W. E. Vinal has consented to conduct a page dealing with nature activities in *THE PLAYGROUND* each month. This first contribution, from a colleague in Syracuse, will be very timely for those participating in the Harmon Award Contest.

## ORNAMENTAL PLANTING FOR PLAYGROUNDS

By

ALAN F. ARNOLD,

*Landscape Architect*

*New York State College of Forestry,*

*Syracuse University*

The sharp distinction there is today in the minds of many persons between the useful and the beautiful is largely the product of the nineteenth century—a result of the industrial development that has given us so many crowded cities. This industrial development and its consequent crowding of populations finally forced the adoption of certain measures to counteract some of the evils they created and are thus, indirectly at least, responsible for the development of the playground idea. Extreme industrial development is also the cause of the attempt to make most of the fine arts play a more important part in our lives. But there has been little attempt apparently to bring these things together; in other words, to make our playgrounds beautiful. It seems to be taken for granted that inasmuch as the prime idea of a playground is to be practical and efficient, there is no place in it for beauty.

Making a playground beautiful is, perhaps, no easy matter, at least as far as growing plants in city playgrounds is concerned. In very small communities or in grounds consisting simply of apparatus set up in a park, a pleasing appearance can easily be obtained through the use of grass, shrubs and trees. An effect of just the same sort, which is generally informal, cannot often be had in an organized playground in a large city, but let us take a hint from places of this character and attempt to get something of their attractiveness in playgrounds even in the most crowded sections.

One of the chief troubles lies in not having land enough and this brings us back to the fact that there is no thought of planning for beauty from

the start. It may be too late to remedy this in the cases of already established playgrounds, but when it is a question of developing new ones it cannot be too strongly urged upon Park, Playground and School Boards that an extra bit of land is worth acquiring for the definite purpose of providing some greenery, bloom and shade. There is, of course, the possibility of providing this extra land and then, through pressure for more play space, of having it turned into a playground. With careful planning for future growth, however, it should be possible in many instances where new play spaces are being established, to preserve this extra land permanently.

The opportunities for planting in a playground would be, for the most part, at the sides of the area, in spots adjoining shelters, or other structures and as dividing lines between different sections of the playground. A strip of eight feet around the edge of a playground allows of planting a border of trees and shrubs that would be very satisfactory in sheltering the playground and in taking away the bare, unfinished look that is so common. Even if it were impracticable to have shrubs, a row of trees would interfere little with play and a covering of vines on the fences would largely take the place of shrubs. Vines can, of course, well be used on shelters and winter buildings. Trees can be grown in a playground area even when there is no grass; they should thrive better than in city streets. Trees with a habit that will not interfere with play nor give such dense shade as to prevent the playground drying out might well be scattered through a playground or arranged in rows according to the general scheme of development. Flowers, being easily injured and tempting to pick, requiring some care and being effective for only a short time, would hardly seem to have a place in playground planting except where actual gardens for the children are provided.

The idea of beautifying playgrounds is, to most persons, nothing but the provision of some planting. It is probably true that plants will be our main reliance, but we should not overlook the fact that everything in it tends to make or mar the appearance of a playground. Beauty will come not only from planting but also from such things as fences of a pleasing appearance, concrete work neatly done, a surface of an attractive color and similar considerations.

It would seem as though we in America were in no danger of paying too little attention to the health of the younger generation. At the same time, there are many who believe it very important that efforts be made to teach children that beauty is something both essential and altogether natural. If children are to learn this, it seems associating beauty with their everyday work and play. One place in which this might well be done is our playgrounds.

The following list includes a number of trees, shrubs and vines that should be satisfactory for playground planting. The choice of plants must depend on the soil, surroundings, type of playground, general scheme of its development and similar factors, and many cases may arise where some of these plants would not be as suitable as others not on the list. The list is for the north-eastern part of the country.

#### TREES

*Ulmus americana*—American Elm. Having to spray it may make this tree less desirable but its form, rapid growth and long life make it one of the best trees for the purpose.

*Gleditsia triacanthos inermis*—Thornless Honeylocust. A tall tree giving light shade, which grows quickly and is very free from insect pests.

*Celtis occidentalis*—Hackberry. A medium sized tree with a broad top—not long lived but will thrive in rather dry soil.

*Platanus acerifolia*—London Planetree. A large tree of fine appearance and easily grown. It should not be used in the coldest parts of the country.

*Quercus rubra*—Red Oak. Will eventually make a large, broad tree; grows fairly quickly and is not particular as to soil or exposure.

*Juniperus virginiana*—Red Cedar. An evergreen of narrow form, excellent for planting along fences or buildings and in with shrubs. Would be for ornament rather than use.

*Thuja occidentalis*—American Arborvitæ. An evergreen similar to the preceding but thriving in wet or heavy soil, whereas the red cedar does well in dry or gravelly ground.

*Koelreutia paniculata*—Goldenrain-tree. A very small tree, short lived, with nice foliage, quick growing and useful in dry soils. Could be used in conjunction with shrubs.

*Crataegus cordata*—Washington Thorn. A small tree which may be put in the background of shrubs, near buildings, where some height to

the planting is desired. Very ornamental in flower and fruit.

#### SHRUBS

*Acanthopanax pentaphyllum*. Of medium height with prickly stems and inconspicuous flowers. Good for its nice habit and foliage.

*Berberis amurensis japonica*—Hakodate Barberry. A medium sized, dense barberry, very shapely, with handsome foliage and fruit. Makes a nice hedge.

*Berberis thunbergii*—Japanese Barberry. One of the commonest ornamental shrubs and very good where a low, hardy shrub is wanted. Its thorns make it good for protective purposes.

*Physocarpus opulifolius*—Common Ninebark. A native shrub growing to eight or ten feet in height, easily grown and a good all-round plant.

*Rhodotypos kerrioides*—Jetbead. Grows to be four or five feet tall and is good where a large shrub is not wanted; has nice foliage and flowers.

*Cornus mas*—Cornelian-cherry. A very large shrub with excellent foliage; very desirable where a screen of foliage is wanted.

*Ligustrum ibota*—Ibota Privet. A broad, dense shrub. Its hardiness, ability to grow most anywhere and good foliage make it a valuable plant.

*Ligustrum vulgare*—European Privet. Will make a taller plant than the preceding. It has excellent foliage, which lasts late in the fall and stands city smoke and dust well.

*Caragana arborescens*—Siberian Pea-tree. Not an especially good shrub for foliage, but is very hardy, will stand some dryness in the soil and is attractive when in bloom.

#### VINES

*Lonicera japonica*—Japanese Honeysuckle. A twining vine which grows quickly and makes a fine mass of clean foliage which lasts well in the fall.

*Clematis paniculata*—Sweet Autumn Clematis. Of similar character to the preceding, being fast growing and with excellent foliage. It is handsome when in bloom in the fall.

*Ampelopsis tricuspidata*—Japanese Creeper. This is often called Boston Ivy. It clings to brick, wood and like material, and will spread over a large surface.

*Euonymus radicans vegetus*—Bigleaf Wintercreeper. Will attach itself to walls as will Japanese Creeper preceding. It is an evergreen vine and desirable on that account; it is not especially easy to grow, however, nor does it grow fast.



## The Problem Column

IS RECREATION MORE EFFICIENTLY ADMINISTERED BY SCHOOL BOARDS THAN BY OTHER BOARDS?

I have read with a great deal of interest the introductory statement in the pamphlet, *The School as the People's Clubhouse*, recently issued by the Bureau of Education of the United States Department of the Interior. The broad statement that the administration of the social center and play movement should be in the hands of the school authorities, and that recreation is more efficiently administered by school boards than by other boards, should be challenged.

That statement does not take into consideration the broad meaning of public recreation. A public recreation system is one involving a program of activities which under a coördinated administration of all available public and private facilities provides clean, wholesome recreation for all the people of the community under the direction of competent leadership. A recreation system must be non-partisan, non-sectarian and non-institutional.

It is a question whether the school authorities can combine all public and private facilities under their control. School boards are generally elected at the polls or appointed by elected public officials. Hence, there is at the beginning an influence of partisanship. Private agencies are jealous of school authority and there is little likelihood of the parochial interests subjecting their property to the control of a school board. Other public departments, unless it is mandatory by law, are extremely jealous of permitting another public department to interfere with their property or work. Inter-departmental jealousies are difficult to overcome unless there is a central clearing agency, created by law, with a definite policy regarding the use of all public and private recreational facilities.

The efficiency of a recreation system depends upon the executive in charge of the work and the assertion in the pamphlet that recreation is more efficiently administered by school board than by other boards is not borne out by facts. Recreation under school boards is, except in rare instances, not given any more consideration, and in most cases less consideration, than the Departments of Domestic Science or Manual Training. Appropriations for recreation work are bitterly fought by minor department heads in a school system who

want larger appropriations for their own departments. If the school budget is cut, the recreation work is the first and most severe sufferer.

School principals and janitors are very much opposed to recreation in school buildings, for it means more work for them. School teachers, steeped in theory, school discipline and strict routine, rarely make successful recreation workers because they fail to grasp the real play spirit, nor are they trained in dealing with adult play. In the opinion of a noted educator, school teachers are "tired out" at the close of the school day and are not in a fit condition, either mentally or physically, to work on a playground or at a community center. Recreation is more than "mere fun" with children.

School buildings should be fully used for recreation purposes, and the building of separate recreation buildings when school facilities can be used, is not advocated. School facilities can be more efficiently used if the recreation workers are under a separate department, because the workers are more apt to be selected for their personality and experience in recreation work than for the academic degrees which the applicant may hold.

The efficient administration of a recreation system is dependent upon the executive in charge of the work and not upon the board of control. Separate boards of control have been, as a rule, more successful in getting big successful administrators than school boards, which generally have minor department heads in charge of their physical education and recreation departments. Routine methods cannot be applied to recreation work, and the spontaneity of expression of the participant, or the initiative of the recreation worker, cannot thrive under the routine form of control of most school boards.

Some cities which formerly had school board control of recreation facilities have changed to a separate board of control. They have worked much more efficiently. Most of the old established systems in the East which were formerly under school board control, are now separate. School boards of most cities have refused for many years the use of school buildings to the public, and now, as separate boards have made recreation work so successful, some boards have realized their mistake and are taking over a work already successfully organized. It is a rarity for a school board to do pioneer work in any city. They generally take over the work after other boards have made it successful. The fact that 57 school playgrounds

of a recreation organization in Chicago were recently placed under the school board control when the Chicago Board of Education created a Recreation Department, does not signify that the control of other boards is unsuccessful. The Chicago Board of Education for a long time persistently refused the people the use of their buildings as recreation centers.

It is significant that in practically every one of 1,000 cities in the United States, school boards have jurisdiction of the school, but in less than 125 cities do they recognize the need of recreation for all the people of the community, and have created recreation departments in their system. It is also significant that in most cities where the law makes it mandatory for the school boards to let the people use the school buildings, such a high fee for the use of the building is charged that it is almost prohibitive to the majority of the taxpayers. In only 229 of 711 cities reporting to the Playground Recreation Association of America on recreation work were school buildings used for public recreation purposes and only 127 of the 711 cities have school boards in control of recreation.

If the administration of school boards is more efficient than other boards, why hasn't the number of cities having school control of recreation increased more rapidly? Statistics given in the Year Book of the Playground Recreation Association of America show that the percentage of cities having school board control is decreasing. In 1923, 20% of the cities reporting had school board control; in 1924, it had 18%, and in 1925, only 17% of the cities reporting had school board control.

The pamphlet states in one place—"School control of recreational activities means municipal economy," and in another paragraph—"A city to be thoroughly served should have a playground within one-quarter mile of every child." Since the radius of many school districts is more than one-half mile, it may be necessary to purchase sites separate from school buildings." It cannot be shown that it is cheaper for a school board to buy property than any other city department. If it is necessary for a school board to buy other playground sites and erect buildings for toilets, storage, etc., I can see no economy and still maintain that a separate recreation agency created by law, which gives them the right to use all school, park and other public or private property for recreation purposes, is more permanent, efficient and will keep recreation more constantly before

the public than the school form of control, provided the proper executive is secured. It is just as easy for a separate board of control to secure the proper executive as a school board.

Furthermore, school employees' salaries are usually higher than recreation workers'; hence, it is more expensive for school boards to maintain separate teaching staff of recreation workers than it is for other forms of control.

Separate boards of control are constantly making wider use of the school plant with no detrimental effects to the main purpose of the school education. Their success in efficiently using the school plant for recreation purposes is resulting in the appropriation of large sums of money for many new school buildings with recreation and community center facilities.—C. E. Brewer, Commissioner of Recreation, Detroit, Michigan.

## Big Summer in Amateur Baseball

By

E. W. JOHNSON

*Superintendent of Playgrounds, St. Paul,  
Minnesota*

One of the most prosperous seasons in the history of amateur baseball organization has just closed. There were eighteen teams playing in the Parochial School League, twelve teams in the Young Men's Christian Association leagues, ten teams in the Mercantile and ten teams in the Commercial Leagues which are representative of industrial and commercial firms in the city, eight teams in the City League, eighteen teams in the Gopher Divisions which is made up of boys nineteen years of age and under, and eight teams in the Capitol League which consists of boys seventeen years of age and under. This is the baseball story in the City of St. Paul for the season just closed.

This has been a banner year both in interest and in quality of games played. Every division worked up through to its own championship then into the finals, finishing the season on September 20th. The final game was between the Armour & Company team, an industrial firm, and the Arcade Bowling Alleys, champions of the City or Sunday league. The result was 9 to 3 in favor of the Armours.

In 1924 the *Pioneer Press and Dispatch*, one

of our large daily papers in St. Paul, started propaganda for a state baseball tournament which was to include the champions of all leagues playing in the State of Minnesota. Last year five leagues were represented and played through a very successful tournament. This year with thirteen leagues in the state, nine were represented in the tournament which started September 23rd and finished on September 29th. The tournament was to have finished on the 27th but rain interfered and the tournament had to be continued until the finals were played.

This tournament gave promise for the future of developing into one of the biggest things in amateur baseball and the progress and continuance of amateur baseball in the country. The games were close, exciting and well played, and the players all through displayed the very best kind of sportsmanship.

The *Dispatch-Pioneer Press* presented the champion White Bear team of the Inter-State League with a magnificent trophy which stands 30 inches in height, properly engraved, and furnished the park for the teams. The umpires were furnished by the Northwest Umpires' Association and showed that they were masters of the game. The expenses such as balls, umpires and caretakers of the park were deducted from the gross receipts of each day and the balance was divided pro rata among the teams according to the number of games played in the tournament. This arrangement was made between the league presidents themselves and proved to be very satisfactory.

In two or three years with the continued interest all travelling and housing expenses of visiting teams can be guaranteed in this tournament, and this undoubtedly will be a boon to bolster up the fast fading baseball game.

The officials handling the tournament were: Al Luger, President of the Inter-State League, Chairman; J. M. Brennan of the Eastern Minnesota League, Vice-Chairman; and E. W. Johnson, Superintendent of Playgrounds, Secretary. This committee worked in conjunction with the officials promoting the tournament.

Because Berwyn, Illinois, had no public library the Recreation Board housed the library for the community for two years in the Community House.

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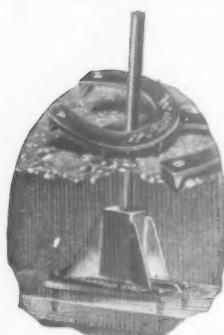
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## Book Reviews

RURAL PLANNING—THE VILLAGE. Farmers' Bulletin No. 1441. U. S. Department of Agriculture. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. \$.10.

In this the latest bulletin issued by the U. S. Department of Agriculture information is given regarding village planning in all its phases—the initiating group, the cooperation necessary, the cost of financing and the difficulties encountered. Some of these questions are answered by the descriptions which are given of what has been done in numerous villages in many states. Many illustrations add to the value of the pamphlet.

MUNICIPAL PLANNING, PARK AND ART ADMINISTRATION IN AMERICAN CITIES. Collated from replies to questionnaire sent out by the American Civic Association. Published by the American Civic Association, 905-7 Union Trust Building, Washington, D. C. Price, 50 cents

This report is divided into two sections: (1) Cities Having Population over 30,000 and (2) Cities Having Population under 30,000. Under each city there is a brief paragraph giving facts concerning the following six headings: City Planning Commission, Zoning Commission, Regional Plan Commission, Art Commission, Park Department, and Playgrounds. Over 200 cities are listed.

OFFICIAL HANDBOOK ON ATHLETICS FOR GIRLS AND WOMEN. (Spalding's "Red Cover" Series No. 115R). Prepared by the Committee on Women's Athletics of the American Physical Education Association. American Sports Publishing Company, New York. Price, 25c

Here is a book which recreation workers, physical

directors, athletic coaches and others are looking for each year with increasing interest and with a growing conviction that the standards set up by the Committee and endorsed by the Women's Division of the National Amateur Federation will mark a new epoch in athletics for girls and women.

In this year's edition of the book will be found new and improved sections of track and field activities, swimming and soccer.

MUNICIPAL AID TO MUSIC IN AMERICA. By Kenneth S. Clark. Published by National Bureau for the Advancement of Music, 45 West 45th Street, New York City.

The National Bureau for the Advancement of Music in conducting this comprehensive study of community music has performed a real service in giving the public a picture of the development of the municipal music movement and in pointing out the possibility that lies in this attempt to put good music within the reach of all the people and to make it possible for them to become sharers in the making of music.

*Our Inheritance from Europe and the Origin of the Present Movement* are first discussed. This is followed by a chapter giving definite suggestions on how to start the movement. A section on *Permissive Legislation* gives much interesting and little known information regarding existing laws making it possible for municipalities to appropriate funds for music.

In the *Analysis of the Survey, Some Typical Music Systems and Extracts from Local Reports* is presented a wealth of information on what cities are actually doing to provide music.

The price of this publication is \$1.50 to readers of THE PLAYGROUND until January 1st, 1926; after that, \$2.00.

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**THE SECOND BOOK OF THE GRAMOPHONE RECORD.** By Percy A. Scholes. Published by the Oxford University Press, New York City.

This book, a companion piece to the First Book of the Gramophone Record, which treats of the music from Byrd to Beethoven, contains notes upon the music of fifty good records from Schubert to Stravinsky. In it technical knowledge is given in language that the layman can understand. There are, in addition to a description of the music, translations of the words of any songs included and a glossary of all necessary technical terms.

**THE BOOK OF AMERICAN NEGRO SPIRITUALS.** Edited with an Introduction by James Weldon Johnson, Musical Arrangements by J. Rosamund Johnson. Additional Numbers by Lawrence Brown. Published by The Viking Press, New York. Price \$3.50

The growing popularity of Negro spirituals and the increasing appreciation of their beauty and dignity as a form of artistic expression, finally found permanent expression in this book which contains within its covers some of the most important contributions of the Negro to the music of America. There are over sixty songs with words and music arranged for piano and voice. In addition to the old favorites are a number which have never before been set down. Not the least interesting feature of this fascinating book is Mr. Johnson's illuminating introduction, in which he writes a romantic chapter in the history of Negro development and interprets the origin, growth and significance of the Negro spiritual.

**TUNES AND RYMES for the Schoolroom** by Alice C. D. Riley and Dorothy Riley Brown. Published by the Clayton F. Summy Co., 429 So. Wabash Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. Price 75c

A very attractive collection of simple songs for children. The words are most appealing and the music delightful, lacking entirely the monotony of the usual intervals so often found in children's songs. A number of the selections have French words as well as English. The collection would be suitable for many occasions.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS** by Frances G. Wickes. Published by Rand, McNally & Co., Chicago, Illinois. Price, 90c

This book contains a collection of suitable stories and recitations for use on holidays and in celebrations throughout the year. Labor Day, Columbus Day, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's Day, Lincoln's Birthday, St. Valentine's Day, Washington's Birthday, Arbor Day, Bird Day, Easter Sunday, May Day, Mother's Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, and Independence Day are all included. The stories are from many different sources.

**OSMAN PASHA—A Drama of the New Turkey** by William Jourdan Rapp. The Century Company, New York City, Price \$1.25

In this vivid play, Mr. Rapp gives a picture of the Turkish renaissance. The magic of the words of Jesus—not theology—it is pointed out, is responsible for the change in both Moslem and Christian. The heroine, an American girl, director of a Near East Relief orphanage, symbolizes the American influence that has brought to Turkey the vision of a better social, political and moral life. The play is a thrilling story of love, deep religious experience and great heroism—a story of exceeding interest and real religious value.

**MANITO MASKS** by Hartley Alexander. Illustrated by Anders John Haugseth. Published by E. P. Dutton & Co., 681 Fifth Avenue, New York. Price, \$3.50

These are dramatizations with music of American Indian Spirit Legends. Nine very dramatic—some very beautiful—one-act plays based on the ritual of the American Indian interpret the true spirit of Indian art and symbolism. The plays call for very little in the way of properties or sets, and most of them can be presented by three or four performers.

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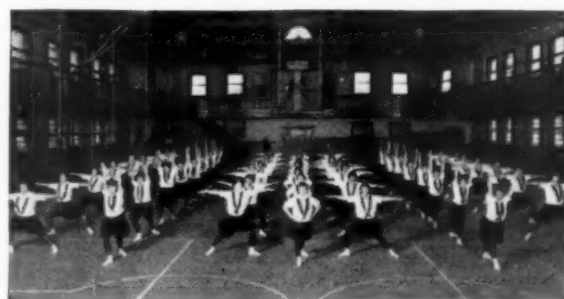
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Butterfly Girl and Mirage Boy

OLD SQUARE DANCES OF AMERICA. By Tressie M. Dunlavy and Neva L. Boyd. Published by the Recreation Training School, 800 South Halstead Street, Chicago, Illinois. Price 75c

Shades of the old-fashioned "callers" are invoked in this delightful collection of dances which will recall to the minds of many an old-timer happy hours when the fiddler with his alluring music enticed into the dance young and old.

"Meet your partner and promenade there,  
Lead your honey to a big soft chair."

"Swing on the corners like a-swingin' on a gate,  
Then your own if it ain't too late."

The quadrilles which Miss Dunlavy has described were gathered in southern Iowa from callers who were long familiar with the old square dances. The dances described—and there are over forty of them—are divided into a number of groups, such as "Divide the Ring" group, "Lady or Gentleman Leading Out Alone" group, "Right and Left through" group, "Do Si Do" group and a number of miscellaneous dances. The descriptions are clear and concise and each dance is accompanied by the call.

The recreation worker will look far for a more delightful program for adults at recreation centers than is offered in this booklet.

SUMMER CAMP ENTERTAINMENT. How to Get the Most out of the Country by Mari R. Hofer, Highland Press, Chicago, Illinois. Price 25c

Many helpful suggestions for the camp director are to be found in this pamphlet of Miss Hofer's, which discusses a number of phases of camping. There is first of all a section giving some hints about food. "Start the boy where he lives—his interest in food and things," says Miss Hofer.

Camp Outfitting and Building is the next subject tersely discussed; then comes a section on Camps and Camp Routine, Camp Games, Neighborhood Days, Special Days, The Evening Hour and Camp Entertainments. There are suggestions for incorporating local and camp history in the form of a pageant and some outlines for such pageants are suggested.

THE WELFARE COUNCIL OF NEW YORK CITY. A report by W. Frank Persons to the Coordination Committee.

This report of the Coordination Committee, organized by Better Times at the conclusion of its prize contest for the best plan for the further coordination of charitable and social work in New York, will interest not only the social workers of New York, but workers throughout the country who are facing the problems which a vast population, lack of homogeneity and the multiplication of organizations present. The report outlines the objectives of the Welfare Council, discusses the possibility of better team work among social agencies, better standards of work, better public understanding of the field and support of the work and describes the plan of organization.

WHO'S WHO IN MUSIC EDUCATION. By Edwin N. C. Barnes. The Pioneer Press, Washington, D. C.

This comprehensive book has been prepared to bring to those outside the immediate circle of music education first hand knowledge of the musical work in the public schools



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and of the activities of music educators who are giving worth while service to America's children; to give educators generally a knowledge of the other fellow and his work and to furnish a brief resume of the growth of Music Education as exemplified in the addresses of the presidents of the Music Supervisors' National Conference and a number of timely special addresses. The book contains, in addition to the biographical section, a historical section, a practical help section and a bibliography of Music Education.

**SYSTEMS OF PUBLIC WELFARE.** By Howard W. Odum and D. W. Willard. Published by The University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, N. C. Price \$2.00

This analysis of the organization and methods of administration of public welfare and relief has much helpful information to offer the student of public affairs, city officials and civic bodies eager for information on the best forms of administration. The history and development of present state systems, their form, functions, objectives and organization are outlined and a discussion follows of forms of state, county and city administrations as they are being worked out.

**"WHAT EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT CHARITABLE AND SOCIAL WORK IN NEW YORK CITY."** By Gertrude Springer. Published by Better Times, Inc. 100 Gold Street, New York. Single copies 25c. 10 copies for \$1.00

The fact that New York City spends approximately seventy million dollars annually for organized charitable and social work, makes this concise statement of the beginning of the work, the extent of the problem and the manner of treatment, particularly valuable. A discussion of the social worker, his qualifications and training and of the progress made toward the establishment of social work as a recognized profession is by no means the least valuable section of the pamphlet.

**NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION'S FOOTBALL REVIEW.** Spaldings Athletic Library No. 200 X. American Sports Publishing Company, New York City. Price 35c

A vast amount of material is to be found in this compilation, including collegiate reviews, scholastic reviews and the record section. The official playing rules, separately bound, form the latter part of the book.

## Magazines and Pamphlets Recently Received

Containing Articles of Interest to Recreation Workers and Officials  
MAGAZINES

American Physical Education Review. September, 1925

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A Study of Athletic Ability of High Schools.  
By R. K. Atkinson

Cornell Rural School Leaflet. September, 1925  
Home Made Equipment for the Home and Rural School

The Progressive Teacher. October, 1925  
Play Time in Japan.  
By William Thompson

The American City. October, 1925  
No City Can Evade This Responsibility  
Awards for Playground Improvement  
Municipal Swimming Pool without Taxation—Sioux City  
Hallowe'en in Spokane  
Poinsettia Festival in Ventura, Calif.



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Mind and Body. September-October, 1925  
The Challenge of Leisure to Intelligence.  
By Willis Allen Parker, Ph.D.  
Physical Education.  
By M. L. Townsend, M. D.  
Athletics for Women: General Training.  
By F. Birchenough  
Massachusetts High School Athletic Association—  
All Student Meet  
Sportsmanship Education.  
By Milton Fairchild

### Our Folks

Miss Marie Merrill, formerly associated with the Department of Public Welfare of Chicago, who has done much to promote home play and to arouse interest in the equipping of apartment houses for recreation, has been appointed Director of Community Centers in Chicago. Miss Merrill will organize neighborhood groups for the use of school buildings.

Miss Erna D. Bunke has recently joined the Lincoln, Nebraska, recreation staff to be in charge of women's and girls' work for that city.

Claude Hubbard has recently been employed as executive director in Turners' Falls, Massachusetts.

Niles, Ohio, has employed N. A. Miller as Supervisor of Recreation.

#### STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, ETC., REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912.

OF THE PLAYGROUND, published monthly at New York, N. Y., for October 1, 1925.

STATE OF NEW YORK, } ss.  
COUNTY OF NEW YORK, }

Before me, a notary public in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared H. S. Braucher, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the editor of THE PLAYGROUND, and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management, etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, embodied in section 411, Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse of this form, to wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are:

Publisher: Playground and Recreation Association of America, 315 Fourth Avenue, New York City.

Editor: H. S. Braucher, 315 Fourth Avenue, New York City.

Managing Editor: H. S. Braucher, 315 Fourth Avenue, New York City.

Business Manager: Arthur Williams, 315 Fourth Avenue, New York City.

2. That the owner is: Playground and Recreation Association of America, 315 Fourth Avenue, New York City.

Present Directors: Mrs. Edward W. Biddle, Carlisle, Pa.; William Butterworth, Moline, Ill.; Clarence M. Clark, Philadelphia, Pa.; Mrs. Arthur G. Cummer, Jacksonville, Fla.; F. Trubee Davison, Locust Valley, N. Y.; Mrs. Thomas A. Edison, West Orange, N. J.; John H. Finley, New York, N. Y.; Hugh Frayne, New York, N. Y.; Robert Garrett, Baltimore, Md.; C. M. Goethe, Sacramento, Cal.; Mrs. Charles A. Goodrich, Hartford, Conn.; Austin E. Griffiths, Seattle, Wash.; Myron T. Herick, Cleveland, Ohio; Mrs. Francis de Lacy Hyde, Plainfield, N. J.; Mrs. Howard R. Ives, Portland, Me.; Gustavus T. Kirby, New York, N. Y.; H. McK. Landon, Indianapolis, Ind.; Robert Lassiter, Charlotte, N. C.; Joseph Lee, Boston, Mass.; Edward E. Loomis, New York, N. Y.; J. H. McCurdy, Springfield, Mass.; Otto T. Mallery, Philadelphia, Pa.; Walter A. May, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Carl E. Milliken, Augusta, Me.; Miss Ellen Scripps, La Jolla, Cal.; Harold H. Swift, Chicago, Ill.; F. S. Tinsworth, New York, N. Y.; Mrs. J. W. Wadsworth, Jr., Washington, D. C.; J. C. Walsh, New York, N. Y.; Harris Whittemore, Naugatuck, Conn.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent. or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: None.

4. That the two paragraphs next above, giving the names of the owners, stockholders, and security holders, if any, contain not only the list of stockholders and security holders as they appear upon the books of the company but also, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting, is given; also that the said two paragraphs contain statements embracing affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner; and this affiant has no reason to believe that any other person, association, or corporation has any interest direct or indirect in the said stock, bonds, or other securities than as so stated by him.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 16th day of September, 1925.

H. S. BRAUCHER,  
C. B. WILSON,  
(My commission expires March 30, 1926).